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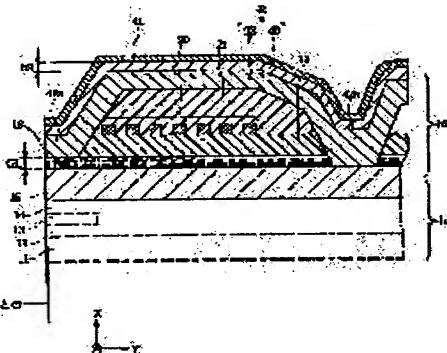
(54) THIN FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND ITS MANUFACTURE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a thin film magnetic head capable of dealing with trends toward the higher recording density and the higher frequency by forming a core layer utilizing at least two layers of a soft magnetic layer and a high specific resistance layer laminated on the soft magnetic layer on the lower and/or upper surface side of the core layer and forming a high specific resistance layer utilizing a magnetic material having higher specific resistance than the material utilized for the purpose of forming the soft magnetic layer.

SOLUTION: An upper core layer 42 consists of a high specific resistance layer 40 formed on the upper surface of a soft magnetic layer 22. The specific resistance of the high specific resistance layer 40 is set to be higher than of the soft magnetic layer 22. The high specific resistance layer 40 is provided with a protective film 41 thereon so that the surface of the high specific resistance layer 40 is covered by the protective film 41.

An eddy-current loss generated due to increase of a recording frequency can be reduced by providing the high specific resistance layer 40 on the soft magnetic layer 22 in such a manner. As the eddy-current loss can be suitably reduced, OW characteristics and NLTS characteristics can be improved and this thin film magnetic head can deal with a trend toward the higher recording frequency.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The lower core layer and up core layer which meet through other magnetic pole layers which met through the gap layer or were joined to a gap layer and this gap layer. The coil layer which gives a record magnetic field to both the aforementioned core layer. It is the thin film magnetic head equipped with the above, and one [at least] aforementioned core layer is characterized by the thing with the high specific resistance layer by which the laminating was carried out to the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer by the undersurface [of a soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned core layer], and/or upper surface side for which it is formed by two-layer at least, and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is formed by the magnetic material of high specific resistance rather than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer.

[Claim 2] The aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 by which it is prepared in the upper surface side of an up core layer, and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer top is covered by the protective coat.

[Claim 3] The aforementioned protective coat is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 2 formed with a NiFe alloy, nickel, and a nickel-P alloy.

[Claim 4] For the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer which is formed in the undersurface of the aforementioned up core layer, and/or the upper surface of the aforementioned lower core layer, and was formed in the aforementioned up core layer and/or the aforementioned lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 currently formed in the aforementioned gap layer at the portion except the other magnetic-path formation field.

[Claim 5] The magnetic layer besides the above formed between the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, and the aforementioned gap layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 4 which is the high Bs layer which has the saturation magnetic flux density Bs higher than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned core layer.

[Claim 6] The thin film magnetic head according to claim 5 by which the slot which an insulating layer is formed, and opens an interval in the direction of the width of recording track at this insulating layer, and is prolonged in the height direction from an opposed face with a record medium is formed on the aforementioned lower core layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer and the aforementioned gap layer are formed at least in this slot.

[Claim 7] The aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned core layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 6 which has the saturation magnetic flux density Bs higher than the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer.

[Claim 8] The thin film magnetic head according to claim 7 with more [at least in one side of an up core layer and a lower core layer, the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer are formed by the magnetic material of the combination of the same element containing Fe, and] amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer in the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer than the amount of Fe(s).

[Claim 9] The thin film magnetic head according to claim 5 or 6 with more [the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer are formed by the magnetic material of the combination of the same element containing Fe, and] amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned quantity Bs layer in the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer than the amount of Fe(s).

[Claim 10] Among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, at least one layer The thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 in which an empirical formula is shown by CoxFey, and the composition ratio x and y are $20 \leq X \leq 40$, $60 \leq Y \leq 80$ or $86 \leq x \leq 92$, and $8 \leq y \leq 14$ in atomic %, and are formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill the relation which it becomes $x+y=100$.

[Claim 11] Among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, at least one layer The thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 formed by the soft magnetic materials to which an empirical formula is shown by CoxFeyNiz and the composition ratio x, and y and z fill with mass % $0.1 \leq x \leq 15$, $38 \leq y \leq 60$, $40 \leq z \leq 62$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[Claim 12] Among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, at least one layer An empirical formula is CoxFeyNizXw (however, Element X). It is shown by at least one sort or two sorts or more of elements chosen from Mo, Cr, Pd, B, and In. the composition ratio x, and y, z and w by mass % $0.1 \leq x \leq 15$, $38 \leq y \leq 60$, $40 \leq z \leq 62$, $0.1 \leq w \leq 3$, the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z+w=100$.

[Claim 13] The aforementioned soft magnetic materials are the thin film magnetic head according to claim 10 to 12 used at least for one side of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer.

[Claim 14] At least one of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layers is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by NiXFey, and the composition ratio x and y are atomic %s, and fill $10 \leq x \leq 70$, $30 \leq y \leq 90$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y=100$.

[Claim 15] Among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, at least one layer An empirical formula is FeaMbOc (however, Element M). It is shown by one sort or two sorts or more of elements chosen from Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W. the composition ratios a, b, and c by atomic % $50 \leq a \leq 70$, $5 \leq b \leq 30$, $10 \leq c \leq 30$, the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c=100$.

[Claim 16] The aforementioned soft magnetic materials are the thin film magnetic head according to claim 14 or 15 used for the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer.

[Claim 17] It is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 which the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer contains nickel, Fe, and N at least as a composition element, and is formed by the soft magnetic materials whose composition ratio of Fe the diameter of average crystal grain is 80A or less, and is moreover more than 30 mass % further.

[Claim 18] It is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 16 whose (Ra) is 120A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft magnetic materials.

[Claim 19] The aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by NixFeyNbz, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and moreover fill $76 \leq x \leq 84$, $8 \leq y \leq 15$, $5 \leq z \leq 12$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[Claim 20] The aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is the thin film magnetic head

according to claim 1 to 9 formed by NiFeP or FeNiPN.

[Claim 21] The aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity Bs layer which forms an up core layer and/or a lower core layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 7 formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by CoxZryNb_z , and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and fill $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$, $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$, $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[Claim 22] The aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity Bs layer which forms an up core layer and/or a lower core layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 7 formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by CoxHfyNb_z , and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and fill $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$, $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$, $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[Claim 23] The aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity Bs layer which forms an up core layer and/or a lower core layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 formed by the soft magnetic materials shown below. Fe of a principal component and one sort or two sorts or more of elements M and C chosen from Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W are contained. as film composition Have the crystal phase which makes Fe a principal component, and the crystal phase of the carbide of Element M, and the diameter of average crystal grain consists of fine crystals 40nm or less as the whole. Furthermore, when the diameter of average crystal grain of the crystal phase which makes the diameter of average crystal grain of the carbide of Element M to d, and makes Fe a principal component is set to D The ratio (d/D) is $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$, an empirical formula is shown by Fe_xMy_z , and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and it fills $50 \leq x \leq 96$, $2 \leq y \leq 30$, $0.5 \leq z \leq 25$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[Claim 24] The aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity Bs layer which forms an up core layer and/or a lower core layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 7 formed by the soft magnetic materials shown below. The elements T and Si of Fe of a principal component, and/or Co, and/or the element X of aluminum One sort or two sorts or more of elements M chosen from Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Ta, Mo, and W One sort or two sorts or more of elements Q chosen from the element Z of C and/or N, and Cr, Re, Rh, nickel, Pd, Pt and Au are contained. as film composition It has the crystal phase which makes Fe and/or Co a principal component, and the crystal phase of the carbide of Element M, and/or a nitride. As the whole, the diameter of average crystal grain consists of fine crystals 40nm or less. further When the diameter of average crystal grain of the crystal phase which makes d, Fe, and/or Co a principal component for the diameter of average crystal grain of the carbide of Element M and/or a nitride is set to D The ratio (d/D) is $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$, an empirical formula is shown by $\text{Ta}_x\text{Nb}_y\text{C}_z\text{Q}_e$, and the composition ratios a, b, c, d, and e are atomic %s, and it fills $0 \leq b \leq 25$, $1 \leq c \leq 10$, $5 \leq d \leq 15$, $0 \leq e \leq 10$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c+d+e=100$.

[Claim 25] The aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity Bs layer which forms an up core layer and/or a lower core layer is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 7 formed by the soft magnetic materials shown below. The element T of Fe of a principal component, and/or Co, Si and aluminum, and one sort or two sorts or more of elements M chosen from Zr, Hf, Nb, and Ta One sort or two sorts or more of elements Q chosen from the element Z of C and/or N, and Cr, Ti, Mo, W, V, Re, Ru, Rh, nickel, Pd, Pt and Au are contained. as film composition To the microcrystal phase from which the diameter of average crystal grain of the body centered cubic structure made into a principal component is set to 40nm or less, at least Element T Si or aluminum, Element Q dissolves, it has the crystal phase of the carbide of the element M with which the grain boundary of the aforementioned fine crystal phase deposited further, and/or a nitride, an empirical formula is shown by $\text{Ta}_x\text{Si}_y\text{Al}_z\text{C}_w\text{Z}_e\text{Q}_f$, and the composition ratios a, b, c, d, e, and f are atomic %s. $8 \leq b \leq 15$, $0 \leq c \leq 10$, $1 \leq d \leq 10$, $1 \leq e \leq 10$, $0 \leq f \leq 15$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c+d+e+f=100$ are filled.

[Claim 26] It is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 to 9 which, as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity Bs layer which forms an up core layer and/or a lower core layer, an empirical formula is shown by $\text{nickel}_1\text{-XFe}_x$, and the diameter of average crystal grain is 105A or less, and is formed by the soft magnetic materials

whose composition ratio X of Fe is within the limits of 60 mass % to 90 mass %.

[Claim 27] It is the thin film magnetic head according to claim 26 whose (Ra) is 25A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft-magnetism film.

[Claim 28] The lower core layer and up core layer which meet through other magnetic pole layers which met through the gap layer or were joined to a gap layer and this gap layer. The coil layer which gives a record magnetic field to both the aforementioned core layer. In case one [at least] aforementioned core layer is formed, while it is the manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head equipped with the above, and forming a soft-magnetism layer The laminating of the high specific resistance layer with specific resistance higher than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer is carried out to an inferior-surface-of-tongue [of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer], and/or upper surface side. At this time It is characterized by adding an amino ** organic material and forming the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer during the plating bath which has Fe ion and nickel ion, by depositing the soft magnetic materials which contained Fe, nickel, and N at least in the composition element.

[Claim 29] The manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head according to claim 28 which keeps pH under aforementioned plating bath or less at 1.8.

[Claim 30] The manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head according to claim 28 or 29 which chooses one sort or two sorts or more from ethylenediamine (EDA), a diethylenetriamine (DETA), a triethylenetetramine (TETA), an alanine (Ala), or glutamic acid (Glu) as the aforementioned amino ** organic material.

[Claim 31] The manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head according to claim 28 to 30 which forms the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer of one [at least] core layer by the nickel-Fe alloy film, and forms the aforementioned nickel-Fe alloy film by the electroplating method using the pulse current at this time.

[Claim 32] The manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head according to claim 31 which makes the diameter of crystal grain of the aforementioned alloy film 105A or less, and moreover forms the composition ratio X of Fe by 60 mass % to 90 mass %.

[Claim 33] The manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head according to claim 32 which forms (Ra) by 25A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned alloy film.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the thin film magnetic head carried in a hard disk drive unit etc., and relates to the future thin film magnetic head which can respond to a raise in recording density, and quantity record frequency-ization and its future manufacture method.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Drawing 9 is the expanded sectional view having shown the conventional thin film magnetic head from the opposite side of a record medium.

[0003] This thin film magnetic head is an inductive head for writing, it reads to the illustration down side of this inductive head, and the MR head of business may be formed.

[0004] The sign 1 shown in drawing 9 is the lower core layer formed by the existing magnetic materials, such as a permalloy (registered trademark). As shown in drawing 9, on the aforementioned lower core layer 1, the insulating layer 3 which the gap layer 2 by the alumina etc. was formed and was further formed of a polyimide or resist material on the aforementioned gap layer 2 is formed.

[0005] On the aforementioned insulating layer 3, the coil layer 4 by which pattern formation was carried out so that it might become spiral is formed. The aforementioned coil layer 4 is formed by the nonmagnetic electrical conducting material with small electric resistance, such as Cu (copper). And the aforementioned coil layer 4 is covered by the insulating layer 5 formed with a polyimide or resist material, and plating formation of the up core layer 6 formed by magnetic materials, such as a permalloy, on the aforementioned insulating layer 5 is carried out.

[0006] As shown in drawing 9, as for the aforementioned up core layer 6, the magnetic gap of the magnetic-gap length G11 to whom the point 6a counters through the aforementioned gap layer 2 on the lower core layer 1 by the opposed face (ABS side) of a record medium, and gives a record magnetic field to a record medium is formed. Moreover, end face section 6b of the aforementioned up core layer 6 is magnetically connected to the lower core layer 1.

[0007] In the inductive head shown in drawing 9, a record magnetic field is given to the up core layer 6 and the lower core layer 1 from the aforementioned coil layer 4 by the record current which flows in the coil layer 4. And a magnetic signal is recorded on record media, such as a hard disk, by the leak magnetic field between the lower core layers 1 and the up core layers 6 in the portion of a magnetic gap.

[0008]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, there is the need of raising the saturation magnetic flux density Bs and specific resistance rho of the up core layer 6 especially, with future raise in recording density and formation of quantity record frequency.

[0009] Although it was magnetic properties required in order for specific resistance rho to reduce the eddy current loss in a high-frequency band, when a NiFe alloy was used for the aforementioned up core layer 6, the aforementioned specific resistance rho usually had only 50micro ohm-cm grade.

[0010] For this reason, in the conventional thin film magnetic head, an eddy current loss was not



fully able to be suppressed in the high frequency band.

[0011] Moreover, the high saturation magnetic flux density Bs is magnetic properties required in order to raise recording density.

[0012] However, if the up core layer 6 is formed by the magnetic material which has the high saturation magnetic flux density Bs which can respond to a raise in recording density, and quantity record frequency-ization, specific resistance rho will fall further and will become suppression of an eddy current loss with the composition going back.

[0013] On the contrary, when forming the up core layer 6 by the magnetic material which has the high specific resistance rho, saturation magnetic flux density Bs had to be made to some extent into the sacrifice.

[0014] Moreover, in the former, the thin film magnetic head of the following structures was also invented paying attention to saturation magnetic flux density Bs.

[0015] That is, the up core layer 6 shown in drawing 9 is made into two-layer structure, and the attempt which is going to arrange the high Bs film which has the high saturation magnetic flux density Bs in the layer of the side which counters the gap layer 2, is going to arrange in it the permalloy film (nickel-Fe alloy film) currently used for the layer of another side from the former, and is going to correspond to it at high recording density-ization is made. In addition, the lower core layer 1 is formed by the monolayer of a permalloy film.

[0016] Also in point 6a of the up core layer 6, since it generates from the portion near especially the gap layer 2, if a high Bs film is arranged, the record magnetic field generated towards the lower core layer 1 from point 6a of the up core layer 6 can generate a magnetic field intensively near the gap in the side which counters the gap layer 2, and is considered [that it can respond to future high recording density-ization, and] at it.

[0017] however, with the above-mentioned composition which arranged the high Bs film in the layer of the side which makes the up core layer 6 two-layer structure, and counters the gap layer 2 If it compares when the aforementioned up core layer 6 is formed by the monolayer of a permalloy film Even if it is the above-mentioned composition of what can raise a recording characteristic, the record magnetic field generated between the aforementioned quantity Bs film and a lower core layer By being influenced of the magnetic field from a record medium, to a grade effective in a raise in future recording density It was thought that a strong record magnetic field could not be centralized near the gap, and it was checked by the experiment which it mentions later that many properties, such as OW (over-writing) property and a NLTS property, cannot be raised more effectively.

[0018] Here, the core layer 1 indicated to be NLTS to drawing 9 and the record magnetic field generated in the magnetic gap between six are the things of the phase lead lag network which is influenced of the record magnetic field emitted towards a head end from the magnetic-recording signal recorded on the record medium immediately before, and produces and causes a nonlinear distortion.

[0019] Moreover, it is the thing of overwrite in OW (over-writing), and whether it fell however from the output of the record signal in the aforementioned low frequency before recording by low frequency first, carrying out overwrite by the RF further and the after heat power of the record signal in low frequency carrying out overwrite by the RF in the state estimates OW property.

[0020] Furthermore, the up core layer 6 can be made into two-layer structure, and the eddy current loss generated when record frequency rises cannot be effectively reduced with the above-mentioned composition which arranged the high Bs film in the layer of the side which only counters the gap layer 2.

[0021] this invention is for solving the above-mentioned conventional technical problem, and especially, the structure of an up core layer and a lower core layer and the magnetic material used as a core layer are improved, and it aims at offering the thin film magnetic head which can respond to a raise in recording density, and high-frequency-ization, and its manufacture method.

[0022]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The lower core layer and up core layer which meet through other magnetic pole layers which this invention met through the gap layer, or were joined to a

gap layer and this gap layer, In the thin film magnetic head which has the coil layer which gives a record magnetic field to both the aforementioned core layer one [at least] aforementioned core layer It is characterized by the thing of a soft-magnetism layer and the high specific resistance layer by which the laminating was carried out to the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer by the inferior-surface-of-tongue [of the aforementioned core layer], and/or upper surface side for which it is formed by two-layer at least, and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is formed by the magnetic material of high specific resistance rather than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer.

[0023] By this invention, it has the soft-magnetism layer and the high specific resistance layer by which the laminating was carried out to the inferior-surface-of-tongue [of the aforementioned core layer], and/or upper surface side in one [at least] core layer as mentioned above. For this reason, the eddy current generated when record frequency rises can be reduced, and it becomes possible to manufacture the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high record frequency-ization.

[0024] In addition, the reason for forming a high specific resistance layer in the front face of a core layer is a shell which is easy to generate especially an eddy current near [aforementioned] a core layer front face by the skin effect as mentioned above.

[0025] Moreover, it is desirable that the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is prepared in the upper surface side of an up core layer at this invention, and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer top is covered by the protective coat. The protective coat is prepared in the front face of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer that the reason for a wrap tends to break the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer since the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is usually formed with the weak quality of the material, and the crack of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer etc. should be prevented by the protective coat for this reason.

[0026] In addition, as for the aforementioned protective coat, it is desirable to be formed with a NiFe alloy, nickel, and a NiP alloy.

[0027] Moreover, as for the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer which the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is formed in the inferior surface of tongue of the aforementioned up core layer, and/or the upper surface of the aforementioned lower core layer in this invention, and was formed in the aforementioned up core layer and/or the aforementioned lower core layer, it is desirable to be formed in the aforementioned gap layer at the portion except the other magnetic-path formation field.

[0028] If the aforementioned quantity resistive layer is formed even in the aforementioned magnetic-path formation field, the record magnetic field generated near the gap will be sacrificed. In addition, when the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is formed in the upper surface of an up core layer, or the inferior surface of tongue of a lower core layer, there are no above limits.

[0029] Moreover, as for the magnetic layer besides the above formed in this invention between the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, and the aforementioned gap layer, it is desirable that it is the high Bs layer which has the saturation magnetic flux density Bs higher than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned core layer.

[0030] according to this gestalt, a strong record magnetic field is generated near the gap -- it can make -- record -- resolution can improve and can manufacture the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high recording density-ization

[0031] Moreover, in the above-mentioned composition, it is desirable that the slot which an insulating layer is formed, and opens an interval in the direction of the width of recording track at this insulating layer, and is prolonged in the height direction from an opposed face with a record medium is formed on the aforementioned lower core layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer and the aforementioned gap layer are formed at least in this slot.

[0032] If the thin film magnetic head formed with the above-mentioned composition is the structure where it can respond to ** truck-ization and it is the above-mentioned structure, it will become possible to form preferably 1.0 micrometers or less of width of recording track by 0.7 micrometers or less. And it is possible to be able to centralize a record magnetic field near the

gap more, and to attain high recording density-ization by a high Bs layer being formed in aforementioned Mizouchi.

[0033] Moreover, as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned core layer in this invention, it is desirable to have the saturation magnetic flux density Bs higher than the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer. Thereby, a record magnetic field can be centralized near the gap and the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high recording density-ization can be manufactured.

[0034] Moreover, it is formed at the magnetic material of the combination of the same element with which the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer contain Fe at this invention at least by one side of an up core layer and a lower core layer, and it is desirable that there are more amounts of Fe(s) of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer than the amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer.

[0035] Moreover, in this invention, the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer are formed by the magnetic material of the combination of the same element containing Fe, and it is desirable that there are more amounts of Fe(s) of the aforementioned quantity Bs layer than the amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer.

[0036] Thus, if the amount of Fe(s) is made [many], saturation magnetic flux density Bs can be raised. In this invention, among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, or at least one layer It is desirable that an empirical formula is shown by CoxFey and the composition ratio x and y are formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill the relation which it is $20 \leq X \leq 40$, $60 \leq Y \leq 80$ or $86 \leq x \leq 92$, and $8 \leq y \leq 14$ in atomic %, and becomes $x+y=100$.

[0037] Or as for at least one of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layers, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by CoxFeyNiz, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are mass %s, and fill $0.1 \leq x \leq 15$, $38 \leq y \leq 60$, $40 \leq z \leq 62$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0038] Furthermore by this invention, among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, at least one layer An empirical formula is CoxFeyNizXw (however, Element X). It is shown by at least one sort or two sorts or more of elements chosen from Mo, Cr, Pd, B, and In. the composition ratio x, and y, z and w by mass % It is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill $0.1 \leq x \leq 15$, $38 \leq y \leq 60$, $40 \leq z \leq 62$, $0.1 \leq w \leq 3$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z+w=100$.

[0039] In addition, as for the above-mentioned soft magnetic materials, it is desirable to be used at least for one side of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and a high Bs layer.

[0040] Or as for at least one of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layers, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by NiXFey, and the composition ratio x and y are atomic %s, and fill $10 \leq x \leq 70$, $30 \leq y \leq 90$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y=100$.

[0041] In this invention, among the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, and the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, or at least one layer An empirical formula is FeaMbOc (however, Element M). It is shown by one sort or two sorts or more of elements chosen from Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W. the composition ratios a, b, and c by atomic % It is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill $50 \leq a \leq 70$, $5 \leq b \leq 30$, $10 \leq c \leq 30$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c=100$.

[0042] In addition, as for the above-mentioned soft magnetic materials, being used for a high

specific resistance layer is desirable. Or it is desirable to be formed in this invention by the soft magnetic materials whose composition ratio of Fe the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer contains nickel, Fe, and N at least as a composition element, the diameter of average crystal grain is moreover 80A or less, and is more than 30 mass % further. In addition, it is desirable that (Ra) is 120A or less in this case in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft magnetic materials.

[0043] Or as for the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, in this invention, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by $Ni_xFe_yNb_z$, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and moreover fill $76 \leq x \leq 84$, $8 \leq y \leq 15$, $5 \leq z \leq 12$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0044] As for the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer, in this invention, being formed at $NiFeP$ or $FeNiPN$ is still more desirable.

[0045] Moreover, as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and high B_s layer which form the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by $Co_xZr_yNb_z$, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and fill $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$, $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$, $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0046] Or as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity B_s layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by $Co_xHf_yNb_z$, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and fill $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$, $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$, $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0047] Or as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity B_s layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials shown below.

[0048] Fe of a principal component and one sort or two sorts or more of elements M and C chosen from Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W are contained. as film composition Have the crystal phase which makes Fe a principal component, and the crystal phase of the carbide of Element M, and the diameter of average crystal grain consists of fine crystals 40nm or less as the whole. Furthermore, when the diameter of average crystal grain of the crystal phase which makes the diameter of average crystal grain of the carbide of Element M to d, and makes Fe a principal component is set to D The ratio (d/D) is $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$, an empirical formula is shown by $Fe_xM_yC_z$, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and it fills $50 \leq x \leq 96$, $2 \leq y \leq 30$, $0.5 \leq z \leq 25$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0049] Or as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity B_s layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials shown below.

[0050] The elements T and Si of Fe of a principal component, and/or Co, and/or the element X of aluminum One sort or two sorts or more of elements M chosen from Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Ta, Mo, and W One sort or two sorts or more of elements Q chosen from the element Z of C and/or N, and Cr, Re, Rh, nickel, Pd, Pt and Au are contained. as film composition It has the crystal phase which makes Fe and/or Co a principal component, and the crystal phase of the carbide of Element M, and/or a nitride. As the whole, the diameter of average crystal grain consists of fine crystals 40nm or less. further When the diameter of average crystal grain of the crystal phase which makes d, Fe, and/or Co a principal component for the diameter of average crystal grain of the carbide of Element M and/or a nitride is set to D The ratio (d/D) is $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$, an empirical formula is shown by $Ta_xNb_yC_zQ_d$, and the composition ratios a, b, c, d, and e are atomic %s, and it fills $0 \leq b \leq 25$, $1 \leq c \leq 10$, $5 \leq d \leq 15$, $0 \leq e \leq 10$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c+d+e=100$.

[0051] Or as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or the aforementioned quantity B_s layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, it is desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials shown below.

[0052] The element T of Fe of a principal component, and/or Co, Si and aluminum, and one sort or two sorts or more of elements M chosen from Zr, Hf, Nb, and Ta One sort or two sorts or

more of elements Q chosen from the element Z of C and/or N, and Cr, Ti, Mo, W, V, Re, Ru, Rh, nickel, Pd, Pt and Au are contained. as film composition To the microcrystal phase from which the diameter of average crystal grain of the body centered cubic structure made into a principal component is set to 40nm or less, at least Element T Si or aluminum, Element Q dissolves, it has the crystal phase of the carbide of the element M with which the grain boundary of the aforementioned fine crystal phase deposited further, and/or a nitride, an empirical formula is shown by $TaSibAlcMdZeQf$, and the composition ratios a, b, c, d, e, and f are atomic %.
 $8 \leq b \leq 15$, $0 \leq c \leq 10$, $1 \leq d \leq 10$, $1 \leq e \leq 10$, $0 \leq f \leq 15$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c+d+e+f=100$ are filled.

[0053] As for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer or high Bs layer which forms the aforementioned up core layer and/or a lower core layer in this invention, an empirical formula is shown by $nickel1-XFeX$, the diameter of average crystal grain is 105A or less, and, as for the composition ratio X of Fe, it is still more desirable to be formed at the soft magnetic materials which are within the limits of 60 mass % to 90 mass %. In addition, it is desirable that (Ra) is 25A or less in this case in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft-magnetism film.

[0054] Moreover, the lower core layer and up core layer which meet through other magnetic pole layers which this invention met through the gap layer, or were joined to a gap layer and this gap layer, In case one [at least] aforementioned core layer is formed, while forming a soft-magnetism layer in the manufacture method of the thin film magnetic head of having the coil layer which gives a record magnetic field to both the aforementioned core layer The laminating of the high specific resistance layer with specific resistance higher than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer is carried out to an inferior-surface-of-tongue [of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer], and/or upper surface side. At this time It is characterized by adding an amino ** organic material and forming the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer during the plating bath which has Fe ion and nickel ion, by depositing the soft magnetic materials which contained Fe, nickel, and N at least in the composition element.

[0055] In this invention, as the third element as a composition element of soft magnetic materials by adding N (nitrogen) which is a nonmetallic element in addition to Fe which bears magnetism, and nickel Also in future high-frequency-izing, the thin film magnetic head which can reduce an eddy current loss can be manufactured by being able to raise the specific resistance rho of the aforementioned soft magnetic materials, and using such aforementioned soft magnetic materials as a high specific resistance layer.

[0056] Moreover, it is desirable to keep pH under aforementioned plating bath or less at 1.8 in this invention. In addition, it is desirable to choose one sort or two sorts or more from ethylenediamine (EDA), a diethylenetriamine (DETA), a triethylenetetramine (TETA), an alanine (Ala), or glutamic acid (Glu) as the aforementioned amino ** organic material in this invention.

[0057] Moreover, it is desirable to form the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer of one [at least] core layer by the nickel-Fe alloy film, and to form the aforementioned nickel-Fe alloy film by the electroplating method using the pulse current in this invention, at this time.

[0058] As mentioned above, by the electroplating method using the pulse current, if plating formation of the nickel-Fe alloy is carried out, the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the aforementioned nickel-Fe alloy can be raised. And in this invention, the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high recording density-ization can be manufactured by using the aforementioned high nickel-Fe alloy of saturation magnetic flux density Bs as a soft-magnetism layer.

[0059] Moreover, it is desirable to make the diameter of crystal grain of the aforementioned alloy film into 105A or less, and to form the composition ratio X of Fe by 60 mass % to 90 mass % moreover in this invention, and it is desirable to form (Ra) by 25A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned alloy film further.

[0060]

[Embodiments of the Invention] Drawing 1 is the expanded sectional view which shows the thin film magnetic head of the operation gestalt of this invention, and was shown from the opposite side of a record medium.

[0061] The thin film magnetic head shown in drawing 1 is the compound-die thin film magnetic head to which it was formed in the trailing side edge side of the slider which forms a surfacing formula head, and the laminating of MR head h1 for reproduction and the inductive head h2 for record was carried out. In addition, the thin film magnetic head in this invention may consist of only inductive heads.

[0062] The sign 11 shown in drawing 1 is a lower shield layer made from soft magnetic materials. As shown in drawing 1, on the aforementioned lower shield layer 11, the lower gap layer 12 formed with non-magnetic materials, such as aluminum 2O3 (alumina), is formed. On the lower gap layer 12, the laminating of the magnetoresistance-effect element 13 is carried out. The aforementioned magnetoresistance-effect element 13 consists of GMR structures represented by the spin bulb film using the AMR structure or the huge magnetoresistance effect.

Furthermore on the aforementioned magnetoresistance-effect element 13, the up gap layer 14 by the alumina etc. is formed.

[0063] As shown in drawing 1, the lower core layer 15 is formed on the aforementioned up gap layer 14. The aforementioned lower core layer 15 is formed of soft magnetic materials.

[0064] Moreover, in the thin film magnetic head of a compound die, the aforementioned lower core layer 15 not only functions as a core layer of an inductive head h2, but functions as an up shield layer of MR head h1 like drawing 1.

[0065] As shown in drawing 1, on the lower core layer 15, the gap layer 18 formed with non-magnetic materials, such as an alumina and SiO2, is formed. Furthermore on the aforementioned gap layer 18, the coil layer 20 by which pattern formation was carried out so that it might become spiral superficially through the insulating layer 19 made from a polyimide or resist material is formed. In addition, the aforementioned coil layer 20 is formed with nonmagnetic conductivity material with small electric resistance, such as Cu (copper).

[0066] Furthermore, the aforementioned coil layer 20 is surrounded by the insulating layer 21 formed with a polyimide or resist material, and the up core layer 42 is formed on the aforementioned insulating layer 21.

[0067] The aforementioned up core layer 42 is formed of the magnetic material. Moreover, as shown in drawing 1, point 42a of the up core layer 42 has countered the lower core layer 15 through the gap layer 18, and end face section 42b of the aforementioned up core layer 42 has connected with the lower core layer 15 magnetically further.

[0068] As for the aforementioned up core layer 42, the high specific resistance layer 40 is formed in the upper surface of the soft-magnetism layer 22 in the example shown in drawing 1. The specific resistance rho of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 is higher than the specific resistance rho of the soft-magnetism layer 22. Thus, by forming the high specific resistance layer 40 on the soft-magnetism layer 22, the eddy current loss generated when record frequency rises can be reduced. And it becomes possible to be able to raise OW property and a NLTS property and to correspond to future high record frequency-ization by the ability of the aforementioned eddy current loss to be reduced appropriately.

[0069] Moreover, as for the thickness h3 of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40, it is desirable that it is 1 micrometer or less. Moreover, as for the maximum thickness of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40, it is desirable that it is below the thickness of the up core layer 42. Moreover, as for the comprehensive thickness which added the thickness of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 and the soft-magnetism layer 22, it is desirable that it is [1.5 micrometer or more] 5.0 micrometers or less.

[0070] It is possible to only form at most 1 micrometer of high specific resistance layers 40 as mentioned above, and to aim at reduction of an eddy current loss effectively in this invention. Moreover, if comprehensive thickness of the high specific resistance layer 40 and the soft-magnetism layer 22 is carried out within the limits of the above and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer is then formed below in the half of comprehensive thickness, while it is possible to fully aim at reduction of an eddy current loss, it is possible to centralize a record magnetic field near the gap and to attain high recording density-ization.

[0071] Moreover, as for the specific resistance rho of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40, in this invention, it is desirable that it is more than 60micro ohm-cm. In

addition, about a magnetic material usable as the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40, it will mention later.

[0072] Moreover, as shown in drawing 1, a protective coat 41 is formed on the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40, and, as for the front face of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40, it will be covered by the aforementioned protective coat 41.

[0073] Thus, the reason for forming the aforementioned protective coat 41 is for the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 to have mechanical and thermal brittleness from composition of the quality of the material, and for a crack etc. to tend to go into the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 for this reason. It is possible to protect the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 from a crack etc. appropriately by covering the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 by the protective coat 41. In addition, a NiFe system alloy, nickel, NiP, etc. can be used for the aforementioned protective coat 41.

[0074] Moreover, in this invention, the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 22 has a desirable high thing compared with the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40.

[0075] Thus, it becomes easy to generate a record magnetic field between the up core layers 42 and the lower core layers 15 in which the record magnetic field guided to the lower core layer 15 and the up core layer 42 has [rather than the high specific resistance layer 40] the high saturation magnetic flux density Bs in an opposed face (ABS side) with a record medium from the coil layer 20 by making high saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the soft-magnetism layer 22.

[0076] and the record magnetic field generated between the aforementioned up core layer 42 and the lower core layer 15 since the aforementioned up core layer 42 and the lower core layer 15 counter the gap layer 18 and are formed -- a near gap -- concentrating -- record -- resolution can be raised and it becomes possible to correspond to future high recording density-ization

[0077] In this example, the lower core layer 15 is formed by the monolayer. The aforementioned lower core layer 15 of worsening this shield function is not desirable in order to mainly act as a shield function of MR head h1, as mentioned above. For example, when the aforementioned lower core layer 15 is formed by the magnetic material which has the high specific resistance rho, the aforementioned shield function may fall.

[0078] The aforementioned shield function is a function required in order to reduce the noise of the record signal reproduced with the magnetoresistance-effect element 13. And in order to raise the aforementioned shield function, the high permeability mu and the low magnetostriction constant lambda are needed.

[0079] As required soft magnetic characteristics of the aforementioned lower core layer 15, from specific resistance rho, rather, since it is high permeability and a low magnetostriction constant, after raising these two soft magnetic characteristics, if specific resistance rho can be made high, it will not have exceeded to it.

[0080] Next, the soft magnetic materials used as the lower core layer 15 in this invention and/or an up core layer 42 are explained below.

[0081] (1) When the soft-magnetism layer 22 and the high specific resistance layer 40 are first formed by the soft magnetic materials of the combination of the same element containing Fe, many things of the amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 22 are more desirable than the amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40.

[0082] Thereby, it becomes possible to raise the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the soft-magnetism layer 22 compared with the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the high specific resistance layer 40.

[0083] Moreover, when the high specific resistance layer 40 is formed also for the lower core layer 15 in the upper surface and/or the inferior surface of tongue of a soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer, many things of the amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer are more desirable than the amount of Fe(s) of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40.

[0084] (2) An empirical formula is shown by CoxFey, moreover, the composition ratio x and y are

atomic %s, it is $20 \leq X \leq 40$, $60 \leq Y \leq 80$ or $86 \leq x \leq 92$, and $8 \leq y \leq 14$, and, as for at least one of the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, and the high specific resistance layers 40, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill the relation which it becomes $x+y=100$.

[0085] It may be used as a high specific resistance layer 40 which these soft magnetic materials have saturation magnetic flux density B_s and specific resistance ρ higher than a nickel-Fe-Nb alloy, therefore the aforementioned soft magnetic materials may be used as a soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15 which need the high saturation magnetic flux density B_s in order to realize high recording density-ization, or needs the specific resistance ρ high for the formation of high record frequency.

[0086] However, it is more more desirable to use the aforementioned soft magnetic materials in this invention as the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer which needs the high saturation magnetic flux density B_s .

[0087] (3) As for at least one of the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, and the high specific resistance layers 40, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by $CoxFeyNiz$, and the composition ratio x , and y and z are mass %s, and moreover fill $0.1 \leq x \leq 15$, $38 \leq y \leq 60$, $40 \leq z \leq 62$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0088] These soft magnetic materials have high saturation magnetic flux density B_s and high specific resistance ρ compared with the nickel-Fe-Nb alloy or the Co-Fe alloy. therefore, the aforementioned soft magnetic materials It may be used as a high specific resistance layer 40 which may be used as a soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15 which need the high saturation magnetic flux density B_s in order to realize high recording density-ization, or needs the specific resistance ρ high for the formation of high record frequency.

[0089] However, it is more more desirable to use the aforementioned soft magnetic materials in this invention as a soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15 which need the high saturation magnetic flux density B_s .

[0090] Among the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, and the high specific resistance layer 40, (4) At least one layer An empirical formula is $CoxFeyNizXw$ (however, Element X). It is shown by at least one sort or two sorts or more of elements chosen from Mo, Cr, Pd, B, and In. moreover, the composition ratio x , and y , z and w by mass % It is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill $0.1 \leq x \leq 15$, $38 \leq y \leq 60$, $40 \leq z \leq 62$, $0.1 \leq w \leq 3$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z+w=100$.

[0091] These soft magnetic materials have the high specific resistance ρ compared with a Co-nickel alloy, and have the saturation magnetic flux density B_s equivalent to a Co-nickel-Fe alloy. therefore, the aforementioned soft magnetic materials It may be used as a high specific resistance layer 40 which may be used as a soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15 which need the high saturation magnetic flux density B_s in order to realize high recording density-ization, or needs the specific resistance ρ high for the formation of high record frequency.

[0092] However, it is more more desirable to use the aforementioned soft magnetic materials in this invention as a soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and the /lower core layer 15 which need the high saturation magnetic flux density B_s .

[0093] (5) As for at least one of the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, and the high specific resistance layers 40, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by $NixFey$, and the composition ratio x and y are atomic %s, and moreover fill $10 \leq x \leq 70$, $30 \leq y \leq 90$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y=100$.

[0094] It is nickel80Fe20 alloy (0.95T of B_s = abbreviation) that it is above-mentioned composition within the limits. It has saturation magnetic flux density B_s (= about 1.3 T) and specific resistance ρ (= about 50micro ohm-cm) higher than ρ =about 20micro ohm-cm. therefore, the aforementioned soft magnetic materials It may be used as a high specific resistance layer 40 which may be used as a soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer

42 and/or the lower core layer 15 which need the high saturation magnetic flux density Bs in order to realize high recording density-ization, or needs the specific resistance rho high for the formation of high record frequency.

[0095] However, it is more more desirable to use the aforementioned soft magnetic materials in this invention as a high specific resistance layer 40 which needs the high specific resistance rho.

[0096] Among the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, and the high specific resistance layer 40, (6) At least one layer An empirical formula is FeaMbOc (however, Element M). It is shown by one sort or two sorts or more of elements chosen from Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W. moreover, the composition ratios a, b, and c by atomic % It is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials which fill $50 \leq a \leq 70$, $5 \leq b \leq 30$, $10 \leq c \leq 30$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c=100$.

[0097] Since these soft magnetic materials have the very small crystal magnetic anisotropy, its coercive force Hc is small and they have good soft magnetic characteristics. Moreover, as for especially these soft magnetic materials, it is desirable that specific resistance rho is used as 400 to 2×10^5 micro ohm-cm and a high specific resistance layer 40 for which the high specific resistance rho is needed since it is very large.

[0098] (7) As for the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by CoxZryNbz, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and moreover fill $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$, $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$, $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0099] These soft magnetic materials have high saturation magnetic flux density Bs, and since there is no crystal magnetic anisotropy, they have good soft magnetic characteristics.

[0100] (8) As for the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by CoxHfyNbz, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and moreover fill $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$, $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$, $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0101] These soft magnetic materials have high saturation magnetic flux density Bs, and since there is no crystal magnetic anisotropy, they have good soft magnetic characteristics.

[0102] (9) As for the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials shown below.

[0103] Fe of a principal component and one sort or two sorts or more of elements M and C chosen from Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W are contained. as film composition Have the crystal phase which makes Fe a principal component, and the crystal phase of the carbide of Element M, and the diameter of average crystal grain consists of fine crystals 40nm or less as the whole. The diameter of average crystal grain of the carbide of Element M to d, and makes Fe a principal component is set to D. furthermore, to a case The ratio (d/D) is $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$, an empirical formula is shown by FexMyCz, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and it fills $50 \leq x \leq 96$, $2 \leq y \leq 30$, $0.5 \leq z \leq 25$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0104] When the diameter of crystal grain of Fe basis alloy makes it detailed by deposit of the carbide of Elements M and C, a crystal magnetic anisotropy is very small, saturation magnetic flux density Bs is higher than the Co-Hf-Nb alloy mentioned above, and since it is the low coercive force Hc, good soft magnetic characteristics are obtained and it is the optimal material for a raise in recording density. Moreover, by deposit of the carbide of Elements M and C, it excels in thermal resistance compared with the Co-Hf-Nb alloy.

[0105] (10) As for the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials shown below.

[0106] The elements T and Si of Fe of a principal component, and/or Co, and/or the element X of aluminum One sort or two sorts or more of elements M chosen from Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Ta, Mo, and W One sort or two sorts or more of elements Q chosen from the element Z of C and/or N, and Cr, Re, Rh, nickel, Pd, Pt and Au are contained. as film composition It has the crystal phase which makes Fe and/or Co a principal component, and the crystal phase of the carbide of Element M, and/or a nitride. As the whole, the diameter of average crystal grain consists of fine

crystals 40nm or less. further The diameter of average crystal grain of the crystal phase which makes d, Fe, and/or Co a principal component for the diameter of average crystal grain of the carbide of Element M and/or a nitride is set to D. to a case The ratio (d/D) is $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$, an empirical formula is shown by $TaXbMcZdQe$, and the composition ratios a, b, c, d, and e are atomic %s, and it fills $0 \leq b \leq 25$, $1 \leq c \leq 10$, $5 \leq d \leq 15$, $0 \leq e \leq 10$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c+d+e=100$.

[0107] Since Element X is contained, specific resistance rho (about 120micro ohm-cm) is large, and excels the aforementioned Fe-M-C alloy rather than the Fe-M-C alloy mentioned above in corrosion resistance and oxidation resistance.

[0108] (11) As for the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials shown below.

[0109] The element T of Fe of a principal component, and/or Co, Si and aluminum, and one sort or two sorts or more of elements M chosen from Zr, Hf, Nb, and Ta One sort or two sorts or more of elements Q chosen from the element Z of C and/or N, and Cr, Ti, Mo, W, V, Re, Ru, Rh, nickel, Pd, Pt and Au are contained. as film composition To the microcrystal phase from which the diameter of average crystal grain of the body centered cubic structure made into a principal component is set to 40nm or less, at least Element T Si or aluminum, Element Q dissolves, it has the crystal phase of the carbide of the element M with which the grain boundary of the aforementioned fine crystal phase deposited further, and/or a nitride, an empirical formula is shown by $TaSiBAlcMdZeQf$, and the composition ratios a, b, c, d, e, and f are atomic %s.

$8 \leq b \leq 15$, $0 \leq c \leq 10$, $1 \leq d \leq 10$, $1 \leq e \leq 10$, $0 \leq f \leq 15$, and the relation it is unrelated $a+b+c+d+e+f=100$ are filled.

[0110] Since the absolute value of a magnetostriction can be made small and internal stress can be made small rather than the T-X-M-X-Q alloy mentioned above since both Si and aluminum were contained, the resistance to environment by temperature etc. improves.

[0111] (12) As for the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, an empirical formula is shown by $nickel1-XFeX$, the diameter of average crystal grain is 105A or less, and, as for the composition ratio X of Fe, moreover, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials which are within the limits of 60 mass % to 90 mass %. In this case, it is desirable that (Ra) is 25A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft-magnetism film.

[0112] These soft magnetic materials have high saturation magnetic flux density B_s , and it becomes 1.9T (tesla) grade at the maximum. And coercive force H_c is low and is below 1.5Oe (oersted).

[0113] (13) Contain nickel, Fe, and N at least as a composition element, moreover the diameter of average crystal grain is 80A or less, and, as for the high specific resistance layer 40, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials whose composition ratio of Fe is more than 30 mass % further. Moreover, it is desirable that (Ra) is 120A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft magnetic materials.

[0114] These soft magnetic materials contain N (nitrogen) of a nonmetallic element, and the soft magnetic materials formed of the above-mentioned conditions have the high specific resistance rho compared with a nickel-Fe alloy, and have coercive force H_c and saturation magnetic flux density B_s still more of the same grade as the aforementioned nickel-Fe alloy.

[0115] (14) As for the high specific resistance layer 40, it is desirable to be formed by the soft magnetic materials with which an empirical formula is shown by $NixFeyNbz$, and the composition ratio x, and y and z are atomic %s, and moreover fill $76 \leq x \leq 84$, $8 \leq y \leq 15$, $5 \leq z \leq 12$, and the relation it is unrelated $x+y+z=100$.

[0116] (15) As for the high specific resistance layer 40, it is desirable to be formed with a FeNiP alloy or a FeNiPN alloy.

[0117] The soft magnetic materials of the above (14) and (15) have the specific resistance rho higher than a nickel-Fe alloy.

[0118] By the way, in this invention, when forming with the nickel-Fe alloy in which the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15 is shown by the above-mentioned (12), the electroplating method which used the pulse current can be

mentioned as the manufacture method.

[0119] Even if the nickel-Fe alloy which carried out electroplating using the aforementioned pulse current enlarges the composition ratio (mass %) of Fe contained in a plating film, in connection with it, saturation magnetic flux density B_s can be raised and it can raise the aforementioned saturation magnetic flux density B_s even to about 1.9T at the maximum.

[0120] Moreover, it is desirable to make into 105A or less the diameter of average crystal grain of the nickel-Fe alloy by which plating formation was carried out, and to form the composition ratio of Fe moreover in this invention, by the electroplating method which used the aforementioned pulse current, at 60 mass % to 90 mass %. Furthermore, it is desirable to form (Ra) by 25A or less in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the aforementioned soft-magnetism film.

[0121] It is possible to carry out plating formation of the nickel-Fe alloy on the above-mentioned conditions according to the electroplating method using the pulse current, and if it is the nickel-Fe alloy which has the crystal which turned minutely in this way, it is possible it not only to raise saturation magnetic flux density B_s , but to reduce coercive force H_c . Specifically, the aforementioned coercive force H_c can be set as 1.5 or less Oes.

[0122] Moreover, when forming by the soft magnetic materials which show the high specific resistance layer 40 to the above-mentioned (13), forming by the manufacture method explained below is possible.

[0123] That is, in this invention, the soft magnetic materials which contained Fe, nickel, and N at least in the composition element can be formed by adding an amino ** organic material during the plating bath which has Fe ion and nickel ion.

[0124] Thus, the soft magnetic materials which contain N (nitrogen) which is a nonmetallic element in a composition element have high specific resistance rho, and the specific resistance rho more than 60micro ohm-cm is specifically obtained.

[0125] Moreover, especially in this invention, pH (hydrogen exponent) of the aforementioned plating bath is rationalized, (Ra) is made small in the center line average coarseness of the film surface of the soft-magnetism film by which plating formation was carried out, and, thereby, coercive force H_c can be low held down to fitness. Specifically, it is desirable to keep pH under aforementioned plating bath or less at 1.8.

[0126] Moreover, in this invention, one sort or two sorts or more can be chosen from ethylenediamine (EDA), a diethylenetriamine (DETA), a triethylenetetramine (TETA), an alanine (Ala), or glutamic acid (Glu) as the aforementioned amino ** organic material added during a plating bath.

[0127] In addition, although the soft-magnetism layer 22 and the lower core layer 15 which form the up core layer 42 are formed by each by the monolayer in the example shown in drawing 1 , you may be the composition that the laminating of two or more layers was carried out. In this case, it is desirable to raise saturation magnetic flux density B_s of each class as the specific resistance rho of each class is raised as it separates from a magnetic gap, and a magnetic gap is approached.

[0128] Drawing 2 is partial drawing of longitudinal section showing the operation gestalt of other thin film magnetic heads in this invention.

[0129] With this operation gestalt, it differs in the composition of drawing 1 and the up core layer 42, and ***** is completely the same as other portions.

[0130] The high specific resistance layer 40 is formed in the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer 22 which forms the up core layer 42 as shown in drawing 2 . The specific resistance rho of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 is higher than the specific resistance rho of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 22.

[0131] Thus, by forming the high specific resistance layer 40 in the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer 22, the eddy current loss generated when record frequency rises can be reduced. And it becomes possible to be able to raise OW property and a NLTS property and to correspond to future high record frequency-ization by the ability of the aforementioned eddy current loss to be reduced appropriately. In addition, it is as the same as drawing 1 explained the thickness of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 etc.

[0132] Moreover, in this example, it is desirable that the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 22 is higher than the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the high specific resistance layer 40. It is possible to centralize a record magnetic field near the gap by this, and to aim at improvement in a recording characteristic.

[0133] In addition, although the high specific resistance layer 40 is prolonged and formed also in the portion (magnetic-path formation field) which touches the gap layer 18 in the example shown in drawing 2, the direction where the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 is not formed in the portion which touches the aforementioned gap layer 18 is desirable at the point on which a record magnetic field can be centralized near the gap.

[0134] Moreover, as for the quality of the material of the soft-magnetism layer which forms the up core layer 42 and/or the lower core layer 15, and the high specific resistance layer 40, it is desirable to be chosen from above-mentioned (1) – (15).

[0135] Drawing 3 is partial drawing of longitudinal section of the thin film magnetic head showing the operation gestalt which formed the high specific resistance layer 40 also in the lower core layer 15.

[0136] As shown in drawing 3, the high specific resistance layer 40 is formed in the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer 43 which forms the lower core layer 15.

[0137] Thus, by forming the high specific resistance layer 40 in the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer 43, the eddy current loss generated when record frequency rises can be reduced. And it becomes possible to be able to raise OW property and a NLTS property and to correspond to future high record frequency-ization by the ability of the aforementioned eddy current loss to be reduced appropriately. In addition, it is as the same as drawing 1 explained the thickness of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 etc.

[0138] Moreover, in this example, it is desirable that the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 43 is higher than the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the high specific resistance layer 40. It is possible to centralize a record magnetic field near the gap by this, and to aim at improvement in a recording characteristic.

[0139] Moreover, you may form the high specific resistance layer 40 in the upper surface of the soft-magnetism layer 43. However, since not forming the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 in the position (magnetic-path formation field) which touches through the up core layer 42 and the gap layer 18 can concentrate a record magnetic field near the gap, it is desirable.

[0140] Moreover, the high specific resistance layer 40 of worsening this shield function and until raising the specific resistance rho of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 formed in the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer 43 is not desirable in order to mainly act as a shield function of MR head h1.

[0141] The aforementioned shield function is a function required in order to reduce the noise of the record signal reproduced with the magnetoresistance-effect element 13. And in order to raise the aforementioned shield function, the high permeability μ and the low magnetostriction constant λ are needed.

[0142] As required soft magnetic characteristics of the high specific resistance layer 40, it is high permeability and a low magnetostriction constant rather, and after raising these two soft magnetic characteristics, it is more desirable than specific resistance rho to make specific resistance rho high.

[0143] Drawing 4 is the partial front view showing the operation gestalt of other thin film magnetic heads in this invention. Drawing 5 is a fragmentary sectional view at the time of cutting the thin film magnetic head shown in drawing 4 from five to 5 line, and seeing from an arrow.

[0144] The thin film magnetic head shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5 is the so-called inductive head for writing, this inductive head used and reads the magnetoresistance effect, and a laminating is carried out on a head (refer to MR head h1; drawing 1).

[0145] The sign 30 shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5 is a soft-magnetism layer which forms the lower core layer formed by soft magnetic materials.

[0146] In this invention, as shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, the insulating layer 31 formed by the insulating material on the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 30 is formed. The

aforementioned insulating material consists of at least one sort in AlO, aluminum 2O3, SiO2 and Ta 2O5, TiO and AlN, AlSiN, TiN and SiN, Si3N4, and NiO, WO, WO3, BN and CrN, and the aforementioned insulating layer 31 is a monolayer, or is multilayered and formed.

[0147] In this invention, it applies in the height direction (the direction of illustration Y) from an opposed face (ABS side) with a record medium, and slot 31a formed by predetermined linear dimension is formed in the aforementioned insulating layer 31.

[0148] Slot 31a which the aforementioned slot 31a is formed of reactive ion etching (the RIE method), and was formed in the aforementioned insulating layer 31 has the inside width method which regulates the width of recording track Tw at least, and is formed. In addition, as for the aforementioned width of recording track Tw, being formed by 1.0 micrometers or less is desirable, and it is 0.7 micrometers or less more preferably.

[0149] As shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, the lower magnetic pole section 32 magnetically connected with the soft-magnetism layer 30 as the lowest layer is formed in the interior of slot 31a formed in the aforementioned insulating layer 31.

[0150] Moreover, as shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, it is in slot 31a and the laminating of the gap layer 33 is carried out on the aforementioned lower magnetic pole section 32. This gap layer 33 is formed of the nonmetal material as which one sort or two sorts or more in NiP, NiPd, NiPt, NiRh, NiW, NiMo, and Au, Pt, Rh, Pd, Ru and Cr were chosen.

[0151] As furthermore shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, it is in the aforementioned slot 31a, and the laminating of the up magnetic pole section 34 is carried out on the gap layer 33.

[0152] Moreover, as shown in drawing 4, from surface 34a of the aforementioned up magnetic pole section 34, it applies to surface 31b of the aforementioned insulating layer 31, and inclined plane 31c toward which an interval spreads gradually and inclines is formed in the both sides of the aforementioned up magnetic pole section 34 at the aforementioned insulating layer 31.

[0153] Furthermore, by this invention, as shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, the soft-magnetism layer 36 which applies on inclined plane 31c from on the aforementioned up magnetic pole section 34, and forms an up core layer is formed.

[0154] Moreover, as shown in drawing 5, on the gap layer 33 formed in slot 31a of an insulating layer 31, a fixed interval (Gd) is vacated in the height direction (the direction of illustration Y) from an opposed face with a record medium, it applies on the insulating layer 31 located in a height side from on the gap layer 33 behind this interval, and Gd arrangement insulating layer 37 is formed. In addition, the aforementioned Gd arrangement insulating layer 37 is formed with organic resin material, such as a polyimide and resist material.

[0155] Moreover, as shown in drawing 5, on the aforementioned insulating layer 31 prolonged in a height side rather than slot 31a formed in the insulating layer 31, pattern formation of the coil layer 38 is carried out spirally. In the example shown in drawing 5, although the aforementioned coil layer 38 is directly formed on the insulating layer 31, Gd arrangement insulating layer 37 mentioned above may be formed between the aforementioned coil layer 38 and the insulating layer 31.

[0156] Furthermore, on the aforementioned coil layer 38, as the aforementioned coil layer 38 is covered, the coil insulation layer 39 is formed, and in addition, this coil insulation layer 39 is formed with organic resin material, such as resist material and a polyimide.

[0157] Moreover, as shown in drawing 5, the soft-magnetism layer 36 mentioned above is prolonged and formed in the height direction from an opposed face with a record medium, on the 2nd lower core layer 30, it connects magnetically and end face section 36a of the soft-magnetism layer 36 is formed.

[0158] Moreover, as shown in drawing 5, the high specific resistance layer 40 is formed in the undersurface of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer 36 in this example. The specific resistance rho of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 is higher than the specific resistance rho of the soft-magnetism layer 36. Moreover, the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 is not formed in the position (magnetic-path formation field) where the soft-magnetism layer 36 counters through the gap layer 33 on the soft-magnetism layer 30 which forms a lower core layer, and exposure formation of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 is not carried out at an opposed face with a record medium. For this reason,

formation of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 does not serve as hindrance of concentration of the record magnetic field near the gap, but can manufacture the thin film magnetic head which can respond to high recording density-ization.

[0159] Although the magnetic pole sections 32 and 34 connect with each soft-magnetism layers 30 and 36 magnetically and are formed in them [near the gap] as mentioned above, if the aforementioned magnetic pole sections 32 and 34 have, and were formed and the saturation magnetic flux density Bs higher than the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of each soft-magnetism layers 30 and 36 is said, they serve as a high Bs layer.

[0160] Thus, it is possible to be the portion of the aforementioned quantity Bs layer, to be able to centralize a record magnetic field near the gap, and to attain high recording density-ization more appropriately by preparing a high Bs layer near the gap.

[0161] Moreover, in the example shown in drawing 5, the aforementioned magnetic pole sections 32 and 34 are formed in slot 31a formed in the insulating layer 31, and since the width-of-face size in the direction of the width of recording track of the aforementioned slot 31a (the direction of illustration X) is formed very narrowly, in the future formation of a ** truck, manufacture of the thin film magnetic head which can respond to high recording density-ization is possible for it.

[0162] In addition, as for the aforementioned up magnetic pole section 34 and the lower magnetic pole section 32 (high Bs layer), it is desirable to be formed of one soft magnetic materials of above-mentioned (1) – (12).

[0163] In addition, although the lower magnetic pole section 32 and the up magnetic pole section 34 are formed only in slot 31a formed in the insulating layer 31 in the example shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5 Furthermore, the aforementioned lower magnetic pole section 32 and the up magnetic pole section 34 extend from aforementioned slot 31a. The aforementioned lower magnetic pole section 32 may be prolonged and formed even in the insulating-layer 31 bottom in which the coil layer 38 is formed, and the up magnetic pole section 34 may be prolonged and formed even on the insulating layer 39.

[0164] Moreover, although the lower core layer 30 is not formed in slot 31a, in this slot 31a, the aforementioned lower core layer 30 projects and it may be formed.

[0165] In the thin film magnetic head in this invention explained in full detail above, the high specific resistance layer to which one [at least] core layer has the specific resistance rho higher than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer on the upper surface and/or the inferior surface of tongue of a soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer is formed among the up core layer and the lower core layer.

[0166] The eddy current generated when record frequency rises can be reduced, and it becomes possible to manufacture the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high record frequency-ization.

[0167] moreover, in this invention, as for the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer, it is desirable to have the saturation magnetic flux density Bs higher than a high specific resistance layer, and this generates a strong record magnetic field near near the gap of each core layer -- making -- record -- resolution can be raised and it becomes possible to manufacture the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high recording density-ization

[0168] In drawing 1 , on the soft-magnetism layer 22 of the up core layer 42 at drawing 2 Moreover, under the soft-magnetism layer 22 of the up core layer 42, Although the high specific resistance layer 40 is formed in the bottom of the soft-magnetism layer 43 of the lower core layer 15 the soft-magnetism layer 22 top of the up core layer 42 in drawing 3 and is prepared in the bottom of the soft-magnetism layer 36 of an up core layer in drawing 5 , respectively It may be prepared in four places of the upper and lower sides of the soft-magnetism layer of for example, an up core layer, and the upper and lower sides of the soft-magnetism layer of a lower core layer, and the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 can determine the formation position of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer 40 arbitrarily.

[0169]

[Example] In this invention, the thin film magnetic head of the example formed with the following composition and the example of comparison was manufactured, and it measured about OW

(over-writing) property, PW50 property, and NLTS property of each thin film magnetic head.

[0170] The high specific resistance layer is formed in the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer which forms the upper surface of a soft-magnetism layer in which the structure of the thin film magnetic head as an example forms a lower core layer, and a lower core layer.

Although all of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer and a high specific resistance layer are formed with the nickel-Fe alloy, the amount of Fe(s) of each soft-magnetism layer is large compared with the amount of Fe(s) of a high specific resistance layer, and, thereby, saturation magnetic flux density B_s is made high for the direction of a soft-magnetism layer compared with the high specific resistance layer.

[0171] In addition, the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of each soft-magnetism layer formed in the side which counters a gap layer was about 1.6T, and the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of a high specific resistance layer was about 1.0T.

[0172] Moreover, the laminating of the soft-magnetism layer two-layer in an up core layer is carried out, the structure of the thin film magnetic head as an example of comparison is constituted, and the lower core layer is formed by the monolayer. Also in this case, although all soft-magnetism layers are formed with the nickel-Fe alloy, the amount of Fe(s) of the nickel-Fe alloy formed in the side which counters the gap layer of an up core layer is large compared with the amount of Fe(s) of another nickel-Fe alloy, and saturation magnetic flux density B_s is made high for the direction of the nickel-Fe alloy formed in the side which counters a gap layer by this compared with the nickel-Fe alloy of another side.

[0173] In addition, the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the nickel-Fe alloy formed in the side which counters a gap layer was about 1.6T, and the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the nickel-Fe alloy of another side was about 1.0T. Moreover, the saturation magnetic flux density B_s of the lower core layer formed by the monolayer was about 1.6T from 1.4T.

[0174] Drawing 6 is a graph about the relation between record current and OW (over-writing) property.

[0175] In addition, in measurement of OW property, it writes in a record medium by low frequency, and, next, a RF performs overwrite. It measured by dB how much it fell in the state compared with the output value of the record signal which the residual output value of the record signal first written by low frequency wrote to the beginning before performing overwrite by low frequency. OW property is so desirable that it is large in an absolute value.

[0176] As shown in drawing 6, if record current goes up [in an example] also in [both] the example of comparison, it turns out that the absolute value of OW property becomes large and its OW property improves.

[0177] However, as shown in drawing 6, compared with the absolute value of OW property in the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison, 5 or about 6dB of directions of the absolute value of OW property in the thin film magnetic head of an example is large, and the direction of the thin film magnetic head of an example understands them as the ability of OW property to be raised compared with the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison.

[0178] Drawing 7 is a graph which shows the relation between record current and PW50 property, so that the half-value width of an isolated reproduction wave is measured and this half-value width of PW50 property is small -- record -- it means that resolution is improving

[0179] As shown in drawing 7, compared with the case of the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison, the direction of the thin film magnetic head of an example can make half-value width small, and turns out that PW50 property can be raised.

[0180] Drawing 8 is a graph which shows the relation between record current and a NLTS property. The NLTS property was measured using the 5th higher-harmonic method which IBM Corp. developed. The aforementioned NLTS property is so desirable that it is large in an absolute value.

[0181] As shown in drawing 8, the direction of the thin film magnetic head of an example turns out that a NLTS property can be raised compared with the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison.

[0182] So that it may understand with reference to drawing 6 or drawing 8 As mentioned above, the thin film magnetic head of an example, Namely, the direction of the thin film magnetic head in

which the high specific resistance layer was formed on the inferior surface of tongue of the soft-magnetism layer which forms the upper surface of a soft-magnetism layer and the lower core layer which form an up core layer Form by the monolayer, the thin film magnetic head, i.e., the lower core layer, of the example of comparison, and an up core layer side is made two-layer. Compared with the thin film magnetic head which made saturation magnetic flux density of a magnetic gap and the layer of the side which counters higher than the saturation magnetic flux density of the layer of the side which separates from the aforementioned magnetic gap, it turns out that OW property, PW50 property, and a NLTS property can be raised.

[0183]

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention explained in full detail above, the high specific resistance layer which has the specific resistance rho higher than the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer is formed in the upper surface and/or the inferior surface of tongue of a soft-magnetism layer and the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer at one [at least] core layer of an up core layer and a lower core layer.

[0184] Loss by the eddy current generated by this when record frequency rises can be reduced, and the thin film magnetic head which can respond to future high record frequency-ization can be manufactured.

[0185] moreover, the record magnetic field which generates the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer from an opposed face with a record medium by making it higher than the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of a high specific resistance layer is concentrated near the gap -- making -- record -- it becomes possible to raise resolution For this reason, according to this invention, the thin film magnetic head which can be dealt with future high recording density-ization can be manufactured.

[0186] Moreover, in this invention, it becomes possible to raise the specific resistance rho of the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer by adding an amino ** organic material and forming by the soft magnetic materials which contained Fe, nickel, and N at least in the composition element during the plating bath which has Fe ion and nickel ion for the aforementioned quantity specific resistance layer.

[0187] When forming the soft-magnetism layer of the aforementioned up core layer or a lower core layer with a nickel-Fe alloy in this invention, it is still more possible to raise the saturation magnetic flux density Bs of the aforementioned soft-magnetism layer by using the electroplating method which used the pulse current.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The expanded sectional view of the thin film magnetic head showing the structure of the operation gestalt of this invention,

[Drawing 2] The expanded sectional view of the thin film magnetic head showing the structure of other operation gestalten of this invention,

[Drawing 3] The expanded sectional view of the thin film magnetic head showing the structure of other operation gestalten of this invention,

[Drawing 4] Partial front view of the thin film magnetic head showing the structure of other operation gestalten of this invention,

[Drawing 5] The fragmentary sectional view which looked at the thin film magnetic head cut from 5-5 line shown in drawing 4 from the arrow,

[Drawing 6] The graph which uses the thin film magnetic head of an example, and the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison, and shows the relation between record current and OW property,

[Drawing 7] The graph which uses the thin film magnetic head of an example, and the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison, and shows the relation between record current and PW50 property,

[Drawing 8] The graph which uses the thin film magnetic head of an example, and the thin film magnetic head of the example of comparison, and shows the relation between record current and a NLTS property,

[Drawing 9] The fragmentary sectional view showing the structure of the conventional thin film magnetic head,

[Description of Notations]

11 Lower Shield Layer

12 Lower Gap Layer

13 Magnetoresistance-Effect Element

14 Up Gap Layer

15 Lower Core Layer

18 33 Gap layer

19, 21, 31 Insulating layer

20 38 Coil layer

22, 30, 36 Soft-magnetism layer

32 Lower Magnetic Pole Section (High Bs Layer)

34 Up Magnetic Pole Section (High Bs Layer)

40 High Specific Resistance Layer

41 Protective Coat

42 Up Core Layer

[Translation done.]

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 ギャップ層を介して対面し、またはギャップ層とこのギャップ層に接合された他の磁極層を介して対面する下部コア層および上部コア層と、前記両コア層に記録磁界を与えるコイル層とを有する薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて、

少なくとも一方の前記コア層は、軟磁性層と、前記コア層の下面側及び／または上面側で前記軟磁性層に積層された高比抵抗層との少なくとも2層で形成されており、前記高比抵抗層は前記軟磁性層よりも高比抵抗の磁性材料で形成されていることを特徴とする薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項2】 前記高比抵抗層は、上部コア層の上面側に設けられ、前記高比抵抗層の上が保護膜で覆われている請求項1記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項3】 前記保護膜は、NiFe合金、Ni、Ni-P合金によって形成される請求項2記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項4】 前記高比抵抗層は、前記上部コア層の下面及び／または前記下部コア層の上面に形成されており、前記上部コア層及び／または前記下部コア層に形成された前記高比抵抗層は、前記ギャップ層へ向う磁路形成領域を除いた部分に形成されている請求項1記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項5】 前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層と、前記ギャップ層との間に形成される前記他の磁性層は、前記コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層よりも高い飽和磁束密度B_sを有する高B_s層である請求項1ないし4のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項6】 前記下部コア層の上には、絶縁層が形成され、この絶縁層にはトラック幅方向に間隔を開け且つ記録媒体との対向面からハイト方向に延びる溝部が形成されており、この溝部内に少なくとも前記高B_s層と前記ギャップ層が形成されている請求項5記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項7】 前記コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層は、前記高比抵抗層よりも高い飽和磁束密度B_sを有している請求項1ないし6のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項8】 上部コア層と下部コア層の少なくとも一方では、前記軟磁性層と前記高比抵抗層とが、Feを含む同じ元素の組み合わせの磁性材料で形成されており、前記軟磁性層のFe量が、前記高比抵抗層のFe量よりも多い請求項7記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項9】 前記軟磁性層と前記高B_s層とが、Feを含む同じ元素の組み合わせの磁性材料で形成されており、前記高B_s層のFe量が、前記軟磁性層のFe量よりも多い請求項5または6に記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項10】 前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Co_xF_yで示され、組成比x、yが原子%で、20≤x≤40、60≤y≤80、あるいは86≤x≤92、8≤y≤14であり、x+y=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項11】 前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Co_xF_yN_zで示され、組成比x、y、zが、質量%で、0.1≤x≤1.5、38≤y≤60、40≤z≤62、x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項12】 前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Co_xF_yN_zX_w（ただし、元素Xは、Mo、Cr、Pd、B、Inから選ばれた少なくとも1種または2種以上の元素）で示され、組成比x、y、z、wが、質量%で、0.1≤x≤1.5、38≤y≤60、40≤z≤62、0.1≤w≤3、x+y+z+w=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項13】 前記軟磁性材料は、前記軟磁性層と前記高B_s層の少なくとも一方に使用される請求項10ないし12のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項14】 前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Ni_xF_yで示され、組成比x、yが原子%で、10≤x≤70、30≤y≤90、x+y=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項15】 前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Fe_aM_bO_c（ただし元素Mは、Hf、Zr、Ti、V、Nb、Ta、Cr、Mo、Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素）で示され、組成比a、b、cが、原子%で、50≤a≤70、5≤b≤30、10≤c≤30、a+b+c=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項16】 前記軟磁性材料は、前記高比抵抗層に使用される請求項14または15に記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項17】 前記高比抵抗層は、組成元素として少なくともNi、Fe及びNを含有し、しかも平均結晶粒径は80Å以下であり、さらにFeの組成比が30質量%以上である軟磁性材料で形成されている請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項18】 前記軟磁性材料の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(R_a)は120Å以下である請求項16記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項19】 前記高比抵抗層は、組成式が $Ni_xFe_yNb_z$ で示され、しかも組成比 x, y, z が原子%で、 $7.6 \leq x \leq 8.4, 8 \leq y \leq 1.5, 5 \leq z \leq 1.2, x + y + z = 1.00$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項20】 前記高比抵抗層は、 $NiFeP$ 、または $FeNiP$ で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項21】 上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高Bs層は、組成式が、 $Co_xZr_yNb_z$ で示され、組成比 x, y, z が、原子%で、 $1.5 \leq y \leq 1.3, 6.5 \leq z \leq 1.5, 1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5, x + y + z = 1.00$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし7のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項22】 上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高Bs層は、組成式が、 $Co_xHf_yNb_z$ で示され、組成比 x, y, z が、原子%で、 $1.5 \leq y \leq 1.3, 6.5 \leq z \leq 1.5, 1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5, x + y + z = 1.00$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし7のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項23】 上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高Bs層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。主成分のFeと、Hf、Zr、Ti、V、Nb、Ta、Cr、Mo、Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、Cとを含有し、膜構成としては、Feを主成分とする結晶相と、元素Mの炭化物の結晶相とを有し、全体としては平均結晶粒径が40nm以下の微細結晶で構成され、さらに、元素Mの炭化物の平均結晶粒径をd、Feを主成分とする結晶相の平均結晶粒径をDとした場合に、その比率(d/D)が、 $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$ であり、

組成式は Fe_xMyC_z で示され、組成比 x, y, z が原子%で、 $5.0 \leq x \leq 9.6, 2 \leq y \leq 3.0, 0.5 \leq z \leq 2.5, x + y + z = 1.00$ なる関係を満たす。

【請求項24】 上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高Bs層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし7のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。主成分のFe及び/またはCoの元素Tと、Si及び/またはAlの元素Xと、Ti、Zr、Hf、V、Ta、Mo、Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、C及び/またはNの元素Zと、Cr、Re、Rh、Ni、Pd、Pt、Auから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Qとを含有し、膜構成

としては、Fe及び/またはCoを主成分とする結晶相と、元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の結晶相とを有し、全体としては平均結晶粒径が40nm以下の微細結晶で構成され、さらに、元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の平均結晶粒径をd、Fe及び/またはCoを主成分とする結晶相の平均結晶粒径をDとした場合に、その比率(d/D)が、 $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$ であり、組成式は $TaXbMcZdQe$ で示され、組成比 a, b, c, d, e が原子%で、 $0 \leq b \leq 2.5, 1 \leq c \leq 1.0, 5 \leq d \leq 1.5, 0 \leq e \leq 1.0, a + b + c + d + e = 1.00$ なる関係を満たす。

【請求項25】 上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高Bs層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし7のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。主成分のFe及び/またはCoの元素Tと、Siと、Alと、Zr、Hf、Nb、Taから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、C及び/またはNの元素Zと、Cr、Ti、Mo、W、V、Re、Ru、Rh、Ni、Pd、Pt、Auから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Qとを含有し、膜構成としては、元素Tを主成分とする体心立方構造の平均結晶粒径が40nm以下となる微結晶相に、少なくともSiあるいはAlと、元素Qが固溶し、さらに前記微細結晶相の粒界に析出された元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の結晶相を有し、

組成式は $TaSi_bAl_cMdZeQf$ で示され、組成比 a, b, c, d, e, f が原子%で、 $8 \leq b \leq 1.5, 0 \leq c \leq 1.0, 1 \leq d \leq 1.0, 1 \leq e \leq 1.0, 0 \leq f \leq 1.5, a + b + c + d + e + f = 1.00$ なる関係を満たす。

【請求項26】 上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高Bs層は、組成式が、 $Ni_{1-x}Fe_x$ で示され、平均結晶粒径は、105Å以下であり、Feの組成比Xは、60質量%から90質量%の範囲内である軟磁性材料で形成される請求項1ないし9のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項27】 前記軟磁性膜の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(R_a)は25Å以下である請求項26記載の薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項28】 ギャップ層を介して対面し、またはギャップ層とこのギャップ層に接合された他の磁極層を介して対面する下部コア層および上部コア層と、前記両コア層に記録磁界を与えるコイル層とを有する薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法において、

少なくとも一方の前記コア層を形成する際に、軟磁性層を形成するとともに、前記軟磁性層の下面側及び/または上面側に、前記軟磁性層よりも比抵抗の高い高比抵抗層を積層し、

このとき、Feイオン、Niイオンを有するメッキ浴中に、アミノ系有機材料を添加して、組成元素に少なくともFe、Ni及びNを含有した軟磁性材料を析出させる

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ことによって前記高比抵抗層を形成することを特徴とする薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【請求項29】前記メッキ浴中のpHを1.8以下に保つ請求項28記載の薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【請求項30】前記アミノ系有機材料として、エチレンジアミン(EDA)、ジエチレントリアミン(DETA)、トリエチレンテトラミン(TETA)、アラニン(Ala)、あるいはグルタミン酸(Glu)から1種または2種以上を選択する請求項28または29に記載の薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【請求項31】少なくとも一方のコア層の前記軟磁性層をNi-Fe合金膜で形成し、このとき前記Ni-Fe合金膜を、パルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法により形成する請求項28ないし30のいずれかに記載の薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【請求項32】前記合金膜の結晶粒径を105Å以下にし、しかもFeの組成比Xを、60質量%から90質量%で形成する請求項31記載の薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【請求項33】前記合金膜の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(Ra)を25Å以下で形成する請求項32記載の薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、例えばハードディスク装置などに搭載される薄膜磁気ヘッドに係り、今後の高記録密度化・高記録周波数化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドおよびその製造方法に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】図9は、従来の薄膜磁気ヘッドを記録媒体の対向側から示した拡大断面図である。

【0003】この薄膜磁気ヘッドは、書込み用のインダクティブヘッドであり、このインダクティブヘッドの図示下側に読み取り用のMRヘッドが形成されていてよい。

【0004】図9に示す符号1は、パーマロイ(登録商標)などの既存の磁性材料で形成された下部コア層である。図9に示すように前記下部コア層1の上には、アルミナなどによるギャップ層2が形成され、さらに前記ギャップ層2上にポリイミドまたはレジスト材料により形成された絶縁層3が形成されている。

【0005】前記絶縁層3の上には、螺旋状となるようにパターン形成されたコイル層4が設けられている。前記コイル層4はCu(銅)などの電気抵抗の小さい非磁性導電材料で形成されている。そして前記コイル層4はポリイミドまたはレジスト材料で形成された絶縁層5に覆われ、前記絶縁層5の上にパーマロイなどの磁性材料で形成された上部コア層6がメッキ形成されている。

【0006】図9に示すように、前記上部コア層6は、その先端部6aが記録媒体の対向面(ABS面)で下部

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コア層1の上に前記ギャップ層2を介して対向し、記録媒体に記録磁界を与える磁気ギャップ長G1の磁気ギャップが形成されている。また前記上部コア層6の基礎部6bは、下部コア層1に磁気的に接続されている。

【0007】図9に示すインダクティブヘッドでは、コイル層4に流れる記録電流によって、前記コイル層4から上部コア層6及び下部コア層1に記録磁界が与えられる。そして、磁気ギャップの部分での、下部コア層1と上部コア層6との間での渦れ磁界により、ハードディスクなどの記録媒体に磁気信号が記録される。

【0008】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、今後の高記録密度化・高記録周波数化に伴い、特に上部コア層6の飽和磁束密度Bsと比抵抗ρを向上させる必要性がある。

【0009】比抵抗ρは、高周波数帯域における渦電流損失を低減するために必要な磁気特性であるが、前記上部コア層6にNi-Fe合金を使用する場合、通常、前記比抵抗ρは50μΩ·cm程度しかなかった。

20 【0010】このため従来の薄膜磁気ヘッドでは、高周波帯域において、十分に渦電流損失を抑制することができなかった。

【0011】また、高飽和磁束密度Bsは、記録密度を向上させるために必要な磁気特性である。

【0012】しかしながら、高記録密度化・高記録周波数化に対応可能なだけの高い飽和磁束密度Bsを有する磁性材料で上部コア層6を形成すれば、比抵抗ρはさらに低下し、渦電流損失の抑制には逆行する構成となってしまう。

30 【0013】逆に、高い比抵抗ρを有する磁性材料で上部コア層6を形成すれば、飽和磁束密度Bsをある程度犠牲にしなければならなかった。

【0014】また従来では例えば飽和磁束密度Bsに注目し、次のような構造の薄膜磁気ヘッドも発明されていた。

【0015】すなわち図9に示す上部コア層6を2層構造にし、ギャップ層2に対向する側の層に、高い飽和磁束密度Bsを有する高Bs膜を配置し、他方の層に、従来から使用されているパーマロイ膜(Ni-Fe合金膜)を配置して、高記録密度化に対応しようとする試みがなされている。なお下部コア層1は、パーマロイ膜の単層で形成されている。

【0016】上部コア層6の先端部6aから下部コア層1に向けて発生する記録磁界は、上部コア層6の先端部6aの中でも、特にギャップ層2に近い部分から発生するので、ギャップ層2に対向する側に、高Bs膜を配置すれば、ギャップ近傍に磁界を集中的に発生させることができ、今後の高記録密度化に対応可能であると考えられている。

【0017】しかしながら、上部コア層6を2層構造に

し、ギャップ層2に対向する側の層に高B_s膜を配置させた上記の構成では、前記上部コア層6をパーマロイ膜の単層で形成した場合に比べれば、記録特性を向上させることができるもの、上記構成であっても、前記高B_s膜と下部コア層間で発生する記録磁界は、記録媒体からの磁界の影響を受けることにより、今後の高記録密度化に有効な程度に、ギャップ近傍に強い記録磁界を集中させることができないと考えられ、OW(オーバーライト)特性やNLTS特性などの諸特性を、より効果的に向上させることができないことが後述する実験により確認された。

【0018】ここで、NLTSとは、図9に示すコア層1、6間の磁気ギャップで発生する記録磁界が、記録媒体に直前に記録された磁気記録信号からヘッド側へ向けて発せられる記録磁界の影響を受け、非線形的な歪みを生じて起す位相進みのことである。

【0019】またOW(オーバーライト)とは重ね書きのことであり、OW特性は、まず低周波で記録をし、さらに高周波で重ね書きをし、その状態で低周波での記録信号の残留出力が、高周波で重ね書きする前の前記低周波での記録信号の出力からどれほど低下したかで評価する。

【0020】さらに、上部コア層6を2層構造にし、単にギャップ層2に対向する側の層に高B_s膜を配置させた上記の構成では、記録周波数が上昇することにより発生する渦電流損失を有効に低減させることはできない。

【0021】本発明は上記従来の課題を解決するためのものであり、特に上部コア層及び下部コア層の構造や、コア層として使用される磁性材料を改良して、高記録密度化・高周波数化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッド及びその製造方法を提供することを目的としている。

【0022】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、ギャップ層を介して対面し、またはギャップ層とこのギャップ層に接合された他の磁極層を介して対面する下部コア層および上部コア層と、前記両コア層に記録磁界を与えるコイル層とを有する薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて、少なくとも一方の前記コア層は、軟磁性層と、前記コア層の下面側及び／または上面側で前記軟磁性層に積層された高比抵抗層との少なくとも2層で形成されており、前記高比抵抗層は前記軟磁性層よりも高比抵抗の磁性材料で形成されていることを特徴とするものである。

【0023】本発明では上記のように、少なくとも一方のコア層では、軟磁性層と、前記コア層の下面及び／または上面側に積層された高比抵抗層とを有している。このため、記録周波数が上昇することによって発生する渦電流を低減させることができ、今後の高記録周波数化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することが可能になる。

【0024】なお上記のように高比抵抗層を、コア層の

表面に形成する理由は、表皮効果によって渦電流は特に前記コア層表面付近に発生しやすいからである。

【0025】また本発明では、前記高比抵抗層は、上部コア層の上面側に設けられ、前記高比抵抗層の上が保護膜で覆われていることが好ましい。前記高比抵抗層を保護膜によって覆う理由は、前記高比抵抗層は通常、脆い材質で形成されるために割れ易く、このため前記高比抵抗層の割れ等を防止すべく、前記高比抵抗層の表面に保護膜を設けている。

【0026】なお前記保護膜は、NiFe合金、Ni、NiP合金によって形成されることが好ましい。

【0027】また本発明では、前記高比抵抗層は、前記上部コア層の下面及び／または前記下部コア層の上面に形成されており、前記上部コア層及び／または前記下部コア層に形成された前記高比抵抗層は、前記ギャップ層へ向う磁路形成領域を除いた部分に形成されていることが好ましい。

【0028】前記磁路形成領域にまで前記高抵抗層が形成されていると、ギャップ近傍に発生する記録磁界を犠牲にする。なお前記高比抵抗層が上部コア層の上面あるいは下部コア層の下面に形成される場合には、上記のような制限はない。

【0029】また本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層と、前記ギャップ層との間に形成される前記他の磁性層は、前記コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層よりも高い飽和磁束密度B_sを有する高B_s層であることが好ましい。

【0030】この形態により、ギャップ近傍で強い記録磁界を発生させることができ、記録分解能は向上し、今後の高記録密度化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0031】また上記構成の場合、前記下部コア層の上には、絶縁層が形成され、この絶縁層にはトラック幅方向に間隔を開け且つ記録媒体との対向面からハイト方向に延びる溝部が形成されており、この溝部内に少なくとも前記高B_s層と前記ギャップ層が形成されていることが好ましい。

【0032】上記構成で形成された薄膜磁気ヘッドは、狭トラック化に対応可能な構造であり、上記構造であれば、トラック幅を1.0μm以下、好ましくは0.7μm以下で形成することができる。そして前記溝内に高B_s層が形成されることで、記録磁界をよりギャップ近傍に集中させることができ、高記録密度化を図ることが可能である。

【0033】また本発明では、前記コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層は、前記高比抵抗層よりも高い飽和磁束密度B_sを有していることが好ましい。これにより、ギャップ近傍に記録磁界を集中させることができ、今後の高記録密度化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0034】また本発明では、上部コア層と下部コア層の少なくとも一方では、前記軟磁性層と前記高比抵抗層とが、Feを含む同じ元素の組み合わせの磁性材料で形成されており、前記軟磁性層のFe量が、前記高比抵抗層のFe量よりも多いことが好ましい。

【0035】また本発明では、前記軟磁性層と前記高B_s層とが、Feを含む同じ元素の組み合わせの磁性材料で形成されており、前記高B_s層のFe量が、前記軟磁性層のFe量よりも多いことが好ましい。

【0036】このようにFe量を多くすると、飽和磁束密度B_sを高めることができる。または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Co_xFe_yで示され、組成比x, yが原子%で、20≤x≤40, 60≤y≤80、あるいは86≤x≤92, 8≤y≤14であり、x+y=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0037】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Co_xFe_yN_zで示され、組成比x, y, zが、質量%で、0.1≤x≤15, 38≤y≤60, 40≤z≤62, x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0038】さらには本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Co_xFe_yN_zX_w（ただし、元素Xは、Mo, Cr, Pd, B, Inから選ばれた少なくとも1種または2種以上の元素）で示され、組成比x, y, z, wが、質量%で、0.1≤x≤15, 38≤y≤60, 40≤z≤62, 0.1≤w≤3, x+y+z+w=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0039】なお上記軟磁性材料は、前記軟磁性層と高B_s層の少なくとも一方に使用されることが好ましい。

【0040】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Ni_xFe_yで示され、組成比x, yが原子%で、10≤x≤70, 30≤y≤90, x+y=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0041】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、前記高比抵抗層、及び前記高B_s層のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、Fe_aM_bO_c（ただし元素Mは、Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素）で示され、組成比a, b, cが、原子%で、50≤a≤70, 5≤b≤30, 10≤

c≤30, a+b+c=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0042】なお上記軟磁性材料は、高比抵抗層に使用されることが好ましい。または本発明では、前記高比抵抗層は、組成元素として少なくともNi, Fe及びNを含有し、しかも平均結晶粒径は80Å以下であり、さらにFeの組成比が30質量%以上である軟磁性材料で形成されていることが好ましい。なおこの場合、前記軟磁性材料の膜面の中心線平均粗さ（Ra）は120Å以下であることが好ましい。

【0043】または本発明では、前記高比抵抗層は、組成式がNi_xFe_yN_zで示され、しかも組成比x, y, zが原子%で、76≤x≤84, 8≤y≤15, 5≤z≤12, x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0044】さらには本発明では、前記高比抵抗層は、NiFeP、またはFeNiPNで形成されることが好ましい。

【0045】また本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層、高B_s層は、組成式が、Co_xZr_yN_zで示され、組成比x, y, zが、原子%で、1.5≤y≤13, 6.5≤z≤15, 1≤(y/z)≤2.5, x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0046】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高B_s層は、組成式が、Co_xHf_yN_zで示され、組成比x, y, zが、原子%で、1.5≤y≤13, 6.5≤z≤15, 1≤(y/z)≤2.5, x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0047】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高B_s層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0048】主成分のFeと、Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、Cとを含有し、膜構成としては、Feを主成分とする結晶相と、元素Mの炭化物の結晶相とを有し、全体としては平均結晶粒径が40nm以下の微細結晶で構成され、さらに、元素Mの炭化物の平均結晶粒径をd、Feを主成分とする結晶相の平均結晶粒径をDとした場合に、その比率（d/D）が、0.05≤d/D≤0.4であり、組成式はFe_xMyC_zで示され、組成比x, y, zが原子%で、50≤x≤96, 2≤y≤30, 0.5≤z≤25, x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす。

【0049】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び／または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高B_s層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成されることが好

ましい。

【0050】主成分のFe及び/またはCoの元素Tと、Si及び/またはAlの元素Xと、Ti、Zr、Hf、V、Ta、Mo、Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、C及び/またはNの元素Zと、Cr、Re、Rh、Ni、Pd、Pt、Auから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Qとを含有し、膜構成としては、Fe及び/またはCoを主成分とする結晶相と、元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の結晶相とを有し、全体としては平均結晶粒径が40nm以下の微細結晶で構成され、さらに、元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の平均結晶粒径をd、Fe及び/またはCoを主成分とする結晶相の平均結晶粒径をDとした場合に、その比率(d/D)が、0.05≤d/D≤0.4であり、組成式はTaXbMcZdQeで示され、組成比a、b、c、d、eが原子%で、0≤b≤25、1≤c≤10、5≤d≤15、0≤e≤10、a+b+c+d+e=100なる関係を満たす。

【0051】または本発明では、前記上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または前記高B_s層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0052】主成分のFe及び/またはCoの元素Tと、Siと、Alと、Zr、Hf、Nb、Taから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、C及び/またはNの元素Zと、Cr、Ti、Mo、W、V、Re、Ru、Rh、Ni、Pd、Pt、Auから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Qとを含有し、膜構成としては、元素Tを主成分とする体心立方構造の平均結晶粒径が40nm以下となる微結晶相に、少なくともSiあるいはAlと、元素Qが固溶し、さらに前記微細結晶相の粒界に析出された元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の結晶相を有し、組成式はTaSi_bAl_cM_dZ_eQ_fで示され、組成比a、b、c、d、e、fが原子%で、8≤b≤15、0≤c≤10、1≤d≤10、1≤e≤10、0≤f≤15、a+b+c+d+e+f=100なる関係を満たす。

【0053】さらには本発明では、前記上部コア層及び/または下部コア層を形成する前記軟磁性層または高B_s層は、組成式が、Ni_{1-x}Fe_xで示され、平均結晶粒径は、105Å以下であり、Feの組成比Xは、60質量%から90質量%の範囲内である軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。なおこの場合、前記軟磁性膜の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(Ra)は25Å以下であることが好ましい。

【0054】また本発明は、ギャップ層を介して対面し、またはギャップ層とこのギャップ層に接合された他の磁極層を介して対面する下部コア層および上部コア層と、前記両コア層に記録磁界を与えるコイル層とを有する薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法において、少なくとも一方

の前記コア層を形成する際に、軟磁性層を形成するとともに、前記軟磁性層の下面側及び/または上面側に、前記軟磁性層よりも比抵抗の高い高比抵抗層を積層し、このとき、Feイオン、Niイオンを有するメッキ浴中に、アミノ系有機材料を添加して、組成元素に少なくともFe、Ni及びNを含有した軟磁性材料を析出させることによって前記高比抵抗層を形成することを特徴とするものである。

【0055】本発明では、軟磁性材料の組成元素として、磁性を担うFe及びNi以外に、第三元素として、非金属元素であるN(窒素)を添加することにより、前記軟磁性材料の比抵抗ρを向上させることができ、このような前記軟磁性材料を、高比抵抗層として使用することにより、今後の高周波数化においても、渦電流損失を低減させることができ可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0056】また本発明では、前記メッキ浴中のpHを1.8以下に保つことが好ましい。なお本発明では、前記アミノ系有機材料として、エチレンジアミン(EDA)、ジエチレントリアミン(DETA)、トリエチレンテトラミン(TETA)、アラニン(Ala)、あるいはグルタミン酸(Glu)から1種または2種以上を選択することが好ましい。

【0057】また本発明では、少なくとも一方のコア層の前記軟磁性層をNi-Fe合金膜で形成し、このとき前記Ni-Fe合金膜を、パルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法により形成することが好ましい。

【0058】上記のようにパルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法により、Ni-Fe合金をメッキ形成すると、前記Ni-Fe合金の飽和磁束密度B_sを向上させることができる。そして本発明では、飽和磁束密度B_sの高い前記Ni-Fe合金を、軟磁性層として使用することにより、今後の高記録密度化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0059】また本発明では、前記合金膜の結晶粒径を105Å以下にし、しかもFeの組成比Xを、60質量%から90質量%で形成することが好ましく、さらに前記合金膜の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(Ra)を25Å以下で形成することが好ましい。

【0060】

【発明の実施の形態】図1は本発明の実施形態の薄膜磁気ヘッドを示すものであり、記録媒体の対向側から示した拡大断面図である。

【0061】図1に示す薄膜磁気ヘッドは、浮上式ヘッドを形成するスライダのトレーリング側端面に形成されたものであり、再生用のMRヘッドh1と、記録用のインダクティブヘッドh2とが積層された複合型薄膜磁気ヘッドである。なお本発明における薄膜磁気ヘッドは、インダクティブヘッドのみで構成されていてもよい。

【0062】図1に示す符号11は、軟磁性材料製の下

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部シールド層である。図1に示すように、前記下部シールド層11上にはAl₂O₃ (アルミナ) などの非磁性材料により形成された下部ギャップ層12が設けられている。下部ギャップ層12の上には磁気抵抗効果素子13が積層されている。前記磁気抵抗効果素子13は、AMR構造あるいは巨大磁気抵抗効果を利用したスピナルブルプ膜に代表されるGMR構造で構成される。さらに前記磁気抵抗効果素子13の上には、アルミナなどによる上部ギャップ層14が形成されている。

【0063】図1に示すように、前記上部ギャップ層14上には下部コア層15が形成されている。前記下部コア層15は軟磁性材料によって形成されている。

【0064】また前記下部コア層15は、図1のように複合型の薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいては、インダクティブヘッドh2のコア層として機能するだけでなく、MRヘッドh1の上部シールド層としても機能する。

【0065】図1に示すように、下部コア層15の上には、アルミナやSiO₂などの非磁性材料により形成されたギャップ層18が形成されている。さらに前記ギャップ層18上には、ポリイミドまたはレジスト材料製の絶縁層19を介して平面的に螺旋状となるようにパターン形成されたコイル層20が設けられている。なお、前記コイル層20はCu (銅) などの電気抵抗の小さい非磁性導電性材料で形成されている。

【0066】さらに、前記コイル層20はポリイミドまたはレジスト材料で形成された絶縁層21に囲まれ、前記絶縁層21の上に、上部コア層42が形成されている。

【0067】前記上部コア層42は、磁性材料によって形成されている。また図1に示すように、上部コア層42の先端部42aは、ギャップ層18を介して下部コア層15に対向しており、さらに前記上部コア層42の基端部42bは、下部コア層15に磁気的に接続された状態になっている。

【0068】図1に示す実施例では、前記上部コア層42は、軟磁性層22の上面に、高比抵抗層40が形成されている。前記高比抵抗層40の比抵抗ρは、軟磁性層22の比抵抗ρよりも高くなっている。このように軟磁性層22上に高比抵抗層40を設けることで、記録周波数が上昇することにより発生する渦電流損失を低減させることができる。そして前記渦電流損失を適切に低減させることができることで、OW特性、及びNLT S特性を向上させることができ、今後の高記録周波数化に対応することが可能になる。

【0069】また前記高比抵抗層40の膜厚h3は、1μm以下であることが好ましい。また前記高比抵抗層40の最大膜厚は、上部コア層42の膜厚以下であることが好ましい。また前記高比抵抗層40と軟磁性層22との膜厚を足し合わせた総合膜厚は、1.5μm以上5.0μm以下であることが好ましい。

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【0070】本発明では、上記のように高比抵抗層40をたかだか1μm設けるだけで、効果的に渦電流損失の低減を図ることが可能である。また高比抵抗層40と軟磁性層22との総合膜厚を上記の範囲内にし、そのとき前記高比抵抗層を総合膜厚の半分以下で形成すれば、十分に渦電流損失の低減を図ることが可能であると同時に、ギャップ近傍で記録磁界を集中させて、高記録密度化を図ることが可能である。

【0071】また本発明では前記高比抵抗層40の比抵抗ρは、60μΩ·cm以上であることが好ましい。なお前記高比抵抗層40として使用可能な磁性材料については、後述することにする。

【0072】また図1に示すように、前記高比抵抗層40上には、保護膜41が設けられ、前記高比抵抗層40の表面は前記保護膜41によって覆われた状態になっている。

【0073】このように前記保護膜41を設ける理由は、前記高比抵抗層40はその材質の組成から機械的、熱的な脆さがあり、このため前記高比抵抗層40にひび割れ等が入りやすいためである。前記高比抵抗層40を保護膜41で覆うことで、前記高比抵抗層40をひび割れ等から適切に保護することができる。なお前記保護膜41には、NiFe系合金、Ni、NiP等を使用することができる。

【0074】また本発明では、前記軟磁性層22の飽和磁束密度B_sは前記高比抵抗層40の飽和磁束密度B_sに比べて高いことが好ましい。

【0075】このように、高比抵抗層40よりも軟磁性層22の飽和磁束密度B_sを高くすることで、コイル層20から下部コア層15及び上部コア層42に誘導された記録磁界が、記録媒体との対向面 (ABS面)において、高い飽和磁束密度B_sを有する上部コア層42と下部コア層15との間で、記録磁界が発生しやすくなる。

【0076】そして前記上部コア層42及び下部コア層15は、ギャップ層18に対向して形成されているため、前記上部コア層42と下部コア層15間で発生する記録磁界は、ギャップ近傍に集中し、記録分解能を向上させることができ、今後の高記録密度化に対応することができる。

【0077】この実施例では下部コア層15は、単一層で形成されている。前記下部コア層15は、前述したように、主にMRヘッドh1のシールド機能として作用するため、このシールド機能を悪化させることは好ましくない。例えば前記下部コア層15を高い比抵抗ρを有する磁性材料で形成すると、前記シールド機能が低下することがある。

【0078】前記シールド機能は、磁気抵抗効果素子13で再生された記録信号のノイズを低減するために必要な機能である。そして、前記シールド機能を向上させるためには、高い透磁率μと低い磁歪定数λが必要とな

る。

【0079】前記下部コア層15の必要な軟磁性特性としては、比抵抗 ρ よりむしろ、高い透磁率と低い磁歪定数であるから、この2つの軟磁性特性を向上させた上で、比抵抗 ρ をも高くできれば、それに越したことはない。

【0080】次に本発明における下部コア層15及び/または上部コア層42として使用される軟磁性材料について以下に説明する。

【0081】(1) まず、軟磁性層22と高比抵抗層40とが、Feを含む同じ元素の組み合わせの軟磁性材料で形成される場合、前記軟磁性層22のFe量は、前記高比抵抗層40のFe量よりも多いことが好ましい。

【0082】これにより軟磁性層22の飽和磁束密度Bsを、高比抵抗層40の飽和磁束密度Bsに比べて高めることが可能になる。

【0083】また下部コア層15も軟磁性層と、前記軟磁性層の上面及び/または下面に高比抵抗層40が設けられる場合、前記軟磁性層のFe量は、前記高比抵抗層40のFe量よりも多いことが好ましい。

【0084】(2) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層、高比抵抗層40のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、 Co_xFe_y で示され、しかも組成比x, yが原子%で、 $2.0 \leq x \leq 4.0$ 、 $6.0 \leq y \leq 8.0$ 、あるいは $8.6 \leq x \leq 9.2$ 、 $8 \leq y \leq 14$ であり、 $x + y = 10.0$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0085】この軟磁性材料は、Ni-Fe-Nb合金よりも高い飽和磁束密度Bs及び比抵抗 ρ を有しており、従って前記軟磁性材料は、高記録密度化を実現するために高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層として使用されてもよいし、あるいは、高記録周波数化のために高い比抵抗 ρ を必要とする高比抵抗層40として使用されてもよい。

【0086】ただし本発明では、前記軟磁性材料は、高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする前記軟磁性層として使用される方が、より好ましい。

【0087】(3) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層、及び高比抵抗層40のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、 $\text{Co}_x\text{Fe}_y\text{Ni}_z$ で示され、しかも組成比x, y, zが、質量%で、 $0.1 \leq x \leq 1.5$ 、 $3.8 \leq y \leq 6.0$ 、 $4.0 \leq z \leq 6.2$ 、 $x + y + z = 10.0$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0088】この軟磁性材料は、Ni-Fe-Nb合金あるいはCo-Fe合金に比べ、高い飽和磁束密度Bs及び比抵抗 ρ を有しており、従って前記軟磁性材料は、高記録密度化を実現するために高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15

を形成する軟磁性層として使用されてもよいし、あるいは、高記録周波数化のために高い比抵抗 ρ を必要とする高比抵抗層40として使用されてもよい。

【0089】ただし本発明では、前記軟磁性材料は、高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層として使用される方が、より好ましい。

【0090】(4) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層、及び高比抵抗層40のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、 $\text{Co}_x\text{Fe}_y\text{Ni}_z\text{X}_w$ (ただし、元素Xは、Mo、Cr、Pd、B、Inから選ばれた少なくとも1種または2種以上の元素)で示され、しかも組成比x, y, z, wが、質量%で、 $0.1 \leq x \leq 1.5$ 、 $3.8 \leq y \leq 6.0$ 、 $4.0 \leq z \leq 6.2$ 、 $0.1 \leq w \leq 3$ 、 $x + y + z + w = 10.0$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0091】この軟磁性材料は、Co-Ni合金に比べて高い比抵抗 ρ を有し、またCo-Ni-Fe合金と同等の飽和磁束密度Bsを有しており、従って前記軟磁性材料は、高記録密度化を実現するために高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層として使用されてもよいし、あるいは、高記録周波数化のために高い比抵抗 ρ を必要とする高比抵抗層40として使用されてもよい。

【0092】ただし本発明では、前記軟磁性材料は、高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする上部コア層42及び/下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層として使用される方が、より好ましい。

【0093】(5) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層、及び高比抵抗層40のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、 Ni_xFe_y で示され、しかも組成比x, yが原子%で、 $1.0 \leq x \leq 7.0$ 、 $3.0 \leq y \leq 9.0$ 、 $x + y = 10.0$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0094】上記組成範囲内であると、 $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$ 合金 ($B_s = \text{約} 0.95 \text{ T}$ 、 $\rho = \text{約} 2.0 \mu\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$) より高い飽和磁束密度Bs (=約1.3T) 及び比抵抗 ρ (=約50 $\mu\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$) を有しており、従って前記軟磁性材料は、高記録密度化を実現するために高い飽和磁束密度Bsを必要とする上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層として使用されてもよいし、あるいは、高記録周波数化のために高い比抵抗 ρ を必要とする高比抵抗層40として使用されてもよい。

【0095】ただし本発明では、前記軟磁性材料は、高い比抵抗 ρ を必要とする高比抵抗層40として使用される方が、より好ましい。

【0096】(6) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層、及び高比抵抗層40のうち少なくとも1層は、組成式が、 $\text{Fe}_a\text{M}_b\text{O}_c$ (ただし元素Mは、Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr,

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Mo, Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素)で示され、しかも組成比a, b, cが、原子%で、 $50 \leq a \leq 70$ 、 $5 \leq b \leq 30$ 、 $10 \leq c \leq 30$ 、 $a+b+c=100$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0097】この軟磁性材料は、結晶磁気異方性が極めて小さいために、保磁力Hcが小さく、良好な軟磁性特性を有する。またこの軟磁性材料は、特に比抵抗ρが $400 \sim 2 \times 10^5 \mu\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ と非常に大きいために、高い比抵抗ρを必要とする高比抵抗層40として使用されることが好ましい。
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【0098】(7) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層は、組成式が、 $\text{Co}_x\text{Zr}_y\text{Nb}_z$ で示され、しかも組成比x, y, zが、原子%で、 $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$ 、 $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$ 、 $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$ 、 $x+y+z=100$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0099】この軟磁性材料は、飽和磁束密度Bsが高く、また結晶磁気異方性がないために、良好な軟磁性特性を有している。

【0100】(8) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層は、組成式が、 $\text{Co}_x\text{Hf}_y\text{Nb}_z$ で示され、しかも組成比x, y, zが、原子%で、 $1.5 \leq y \leq 13$ 、 $6.5 \leq z \leq 15$ 、 $1 \leq (y/z) \leq 2.5$ 、 $x+y+z=100$ なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0101】この軟磁性材料は、飽和磁束密度Bsが高く、また結晶磁気異方性がないために、良好な軟磁性特性を有している。

【0102】(9) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0103】主成分のFeと、Hf, Zr, Ti, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、Cとを含有し、膜構成としては、Feを主成分とする結晶相と、元素Mの炭化物の結晶相とを有し、全体としては平均結晶粒径が40nm以下の微細結晶で構成され、さらに、元素Mの炭化物の平均結晶粒径をd、Feを主成分とする結晶相の平均結晶粒径をDとして場合に、その比率(d/D)が、 $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$ であり、組成式は $\text{Fe}_x\text{M}_y\text{C}_z$ で示され、組成比x, y, zが原子%で、 $50 \leq x \leq 96$ 、 $2 \leq y \leq 30$ 、 $0.5 \leq z \leq 25$ 、 $x+y+z=100$ なる関係を満たす。

【0104】元素MとCの炭化物の析出によって、Fe基合金の結晶粒径が微細化することにより、結晶磁気異方性が極めて小さく、前述したCo-Hf-Nb合金よりも飽和磁束密度Bsが高く、また低保磁力Hcのために、良好な軟磁性特性が得られ、高記録密度化に最適な材料である。また元素MとCの炭化物の析出によ

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り、Co-Hf-Nb合金に比べて、耐熱性に優れている。

【0105】(10) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0106】主成分のFe及び/またはCoの元素Tと、Si及び/またはAlの元素Xと、Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Ta, Mo, Wから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、C及び/またはNの元素Zと、Cr, Re, Rh, Ni, Pd, Pt, Auから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Qとを含有し、膜構成としては、Fe及び/またはCoを主成分とする結晶相と、元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の結晶相とを有し、全体としては平均結晶粒径が40nm以下の微細結晶で構成され、さらに、元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の平均結晶粒径をd、Fe及び/またはCoを主成分とする結晶相の平均結晶粒径をDとして場合に、その比率(d/D)が、 $0.05 \leq d/D \leq 0.4$ であり、組成式は $\text{T}_a\text{X}_b\text{M}_c\text{Z}_d\text{Q}_e$ で示され、組成比a, b, c, d, eが原子%で、 $0 \leq b \leq 25$ 、 $1 \leq c \leq 10$ 、 $5 \leq d \leq 15$ 、 $0 \leq e \leq 10$ 、 $a+b+c+d+e=100$ なる関係を満たす。

【0107】元素Xを含有しているために、前述したFe-M-C合金よりも比抵抗ρ(約 $120 \mu\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$)が大きく、また前記Fe-M-C合金よりも耐食性・耐酸化性に優れている。

【0108】(11) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層は、以下に示す軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0109】主成分のFe及び/またはCoの元素Tと、Siと、Alと、Zr, Hf, Nb, Taから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Mと、C及び/またはNの元素Zと、Cr, Ti, Mo, W, V, Re, Ru, Rh, Ni, Pd, Pt, Auから選ばれた1種または2種以上の元素Qとを含有し、膜構成としては、元素Tを主成分とする体心立方構造の平均結晶粒径が40nm以下となる微結晶相に、少なくともSiあるいはAlと、元素Qが固溶し、さらに前記微細結晶相の粒界に析出された元素Mの炭化物及び/または窒化物の結晶相を有し、組成式は $\text{T}_a\text{Si}_b\text{Al}_c\text{M}_d\text{Z}_e\text{Q}_f$ で示され、組成比a, b, c, d, e, fが原子%で、 $8 \leq b \leq 15$ 、 $0 \leq c \leq 10$ 、 $1 \leq d \leq 10$ 、 $1 \leq e \leq 10$ 、 $0 \leq f \leq 15$ 、 $a+b+c+d+e+f=100$ なる関係を満たす。

【0110】SiとAlの両方を含有するために、前述したT-X-M-X-Q合金よりも磁歪の絶対値を小さくすることができ、内部応力を小さくするために、温度等による耐環境性が向上する。

【0111】(12) 上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層は、組成式が、 Ni_{1-x}

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Fe_xで示され、平均結晶粒径は、105Å以下であり、しかもFeの組成比Xは、60質量%から90質量%の範囲内である軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。この場合、前記軟磁性膜の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(Ra)は25Å以下であることが好ましい。

【0112】この軟磁性材料は、飽和磁束密度Bsが高く、最大で1.9T(テスラ)程度になる。しかも保磁力Hcは低く、1.5Oe(エルステッド)以下である。

【0113】(13)高比抵抗層40は、組成元素として少なくともNi, Fe及びNを含有し、しかも平均結晶粒径は80Å以下であり、さらにFeの組成比が30質量%以上である軟磁性材料で形成されていることが好ましい。また前記軟磁性材料の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(Ra)は120Å以下であることが好ましい。

【0114】この軟磁性材料は、非金属元素のN(窒素)を含有し、上記条件によって形成された軟磁性材料は、Ni-Fe合金に比べ高い比抵抗ρを有し、さらに前記Ni-Fe合金と同程度の保磁力Hc及び飽和磁束密度Bsを有する。

【0115】(14)高比抵抗層40は、組成式がNi_xFe_yN_b_zで示され、しかも組成比x, y, zが原子%で、7.6≤x≤8.4、8≤y≤1.5、5≤z≤1.2、x+y+z=100なる関係を満たす軟磁性材料で形成されることが好ましい。

【0116】(15)高比抵抗層40は、FeNiP合金またはFeNiPN合金で形成されることが好ましい。

【0117】上記(14)、(15)の軟磁性材料は、Ni-Fe合金よりも高い比抵抗ρを有する。

【0118】ところで本発明では、上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層を、上記した(12)で示すNi-Fe合金で形成する場合に、その製造方法として、パルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法を挙げることができる。

【0119】前記パルス電流を用いて電気メッキしたNi-Fe合金は、メッキ膜中に含有するFeの組成比(質量%)を大きくしても、それに伴って、飽和磁束密度Bsを向上させることができ、前記飽和磁束密度Bsを最大で1.9T程度にまで上昇させることができるとある。

【0120】また本発明では、前記パルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法により、メッキ形成されたNi-Fe合金の平均結晶粒径を105Å以下にし、しかもFeの組成比を、60質量%から90質量%で形成することが好ましい。さらに、前記軟磁性膜の膜面の中心線平均粗さ(Ra)を25Å以下で形成することが好ましい。

【0121】パルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法によれば、上記した条件でNi-Fe合金をメッキ形成することは可能であり、このように微細化された結晶を有する

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【0132】またこの実施例では、前記軟磁性層22の飽和磁束密度B_sが高比抵抗層40の飽和磁束密度B_sよりも高いことが好ましい。これにより記録磁界をギャップ近傍に集中させて記録特性の向上を図ることが可能である。

【0133】なお図2に示す実施例では、ギャップ層18と接する部分(磁路形成領域)にも高比抵抗層40が延びて形成されているが、前記ギャップ層18と接する部分に前記高比抵抗層40が形成されていない方が、記録磁界をギャップ近傍に集中させることができると点で好ましい。

【0134】また上部コア層42及び/または下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層及び高比抵抗層40の材質は、上記した(1)~(15)の中から選択されなければならない。

【0135】図3は、下部コア層15にも高比抵抗層40を設けた実施形態を示す薄膜磁気ヘッドの部分縦断面図である。

【0136】図3に示すように、下部コア層15を形成する軟磁性層43の下面には高比抵抗層40が形成されている。

【0137】このように軟磁性層43の下面に高比抵抗層40を設けることで、記録周波数が上昇することにより発生する渦電流損失を低減させることができる。そして前記渦電流損失を適切に低減させることができることで、OW特性、及びNLTS特性を向上させることができ、今後の高記録周波数化に対応することができる。なお前記高比抵抗層40の膜厚等に関しては図1で説明したのと同じである。

【0138】またこの実施例では、前記軟磁性層43の飽和磁束密度B_sが高比抵抗層40の飽和磁束密度B_sよりも高いことが好ましい。これにより記録磁界をギャップ近傍に集中させて記録特性の向上を図ることが可能である。

【0139】また軟磁性層43の上面に高比抵抗層40を設けてもよい。ただし上部コア層42とギャップ層18を介して接する位置(磁路形成領域)に前記高比抵抗層40を設けないことが、ギャップ近傍により記録磁界を集中することができるので好ましい。

【0140】また軟磁性層43の下面に形成された高比抵抗層40は、主にMRヘッドh1のシールド機能として作用するため、このシールド機能を悪化させてまでも前記高比抵抗層40の比抵抗ρを向上させることは好ましくない。

【0141】前記シールド機能は、磁気抵抗効果素子13で再生された記録信号のノイズを低減させるために必要な機能である。そして、前記シールド機能を向上させるためには、高い透磁率μと低い磁歪定数入が必要となる。

【0142】高比抵抗層40の必要な軟磁気特性として

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は、比抵抗ρよりむしろ、高い透磁率と低い磁歪定数であり、この2つの軟磁気特性を向上させた上で、比抵抗ρを高くすることが好ましい。

【0143】図4は本発明における他の薄膜磁気ヘッドの実施形態を示す部分正面図である。図5は、図4に示す薄膜磁気ヘッドを5-5線から切断し矢印方向から見た場合の部分断面図である。

【0144】図4および図5に示す薄膜磁気ヘッドは書き込み用のいわゆるインダクティブヘッドであり、このインダクティブヘッドは、例えば磁気抵抗効果を利用した読み出しヘッド(MRヘッドh1; 図1参照)の上に積層される。

【0145】図4と図5に示す符号30は、軟磁性材料で形成された下部コア層を形成する軟磁性層である。

【0146】本発明では図4及び図5に示すように、前記軟磁性層30上に絶縁材料で形成された絶縁層31が形成されている。前記絶縁材料は、AlO、Al₂O₃、SiO₂、Ta₂O₅、TiO、AlN、AlSiN、TiN、SiN、Si₃N₄、NiO、WO、WO₃、BN、CrNのうち少なくとも1種からなり、前記絶縁層31は、単層であるいは多層化されて形成されている。

【0147】本発明では、前記絶縁層31には、記録媒体との対向面(ABS面)からハイト方向(図示Y方向)にかけて、所定の長さ寸法で形成された溝部31aが形成されている。

【0148】前記溝部31aは、例えば反応性イオンエンチング(RIE法)により形成されるものであり、前記絶縁層31に形成された溝部31aは、少なくともトラック幅Twを規制する内幅寸法を有して形成されている。なお前記トラック幅Twは、1.0μm以下で形成されることは好ましく、より好ましくは、0.7μm以下である。

【0149】図4及び図5に示すように、前記絶縁層31に形成された溝部31aの内部には、最下層として、軟磁性層30と磁気的に接続する下部磁極部32が形成されている。

【0150】また図4及び図5に示すように、溝部31a内であって、前記下部磁極部32の上には、ギャップ層33が積層されている。このギャップ層33は、NiP、NiPd、NiPt、NiRh、NiW、NiMo、Au、Pt、Rh、Pd、Ru、Crのうち1種または2種以上が選択された非金属材料により形成される。

【0151】さらに図4及び図5に示すように、前記溝部31a内であって、ギャップ層33の上には、上部磁極部34が積層されている。

【0152】また図4に示すように、前記上部磁極部34の両側に、前記上部磁極部34の表面34aから、前記絶縁層31の表面31bにかけて、間隔が徐々に広がって傾斜する傾斜面31cが、前記絶縁層31に形成さ

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れている。

【0153】さらに本発明では、図4及び図5に示すように、前記上部磁極部34上から傾斜面31c上にかけて上部コア層を形成する軟磁性層36が形成されている。

【0154】また図5に示すように、絶縁層31の溝部31a内に形成されたギャップ層33上に、記録媒体との対向面からハイト方向(図示Y方向)に一定の間隔(Gd)が空けられ、この間隔の後方のギャップ層33上からハイト側に位置する絶縁層31上にかけてGd決め絶縁層37が形成されている。なお前記Gd決め絶縁層37は、例えばポリイミドやレジスト材料などの有機樹脂材料で形成されている。

【0155】また図5に示すように、絶縁層31に形成された溝部31aよりもハイト側に延びる前記絶縁層31の上には、コイル層38が螺旋状にパターン形成されている。図5に示す実施例では、前記コイル層38が絶縁層31の上に直接形成されているが、前記コイル層38と絶縁層31との間に、前述したGd決め絶縁層37が形成されていてもよい。

【0156】さらに前記コイル層38の上には、前記コイル層38を覆うようにしてコイル絶縁層39が形成されており、なお、このコイル絶縁層39はレジスト材料やポリイミドなどの有機樹脂材料で形成されている。

【0157】また図5に示すように、上述した軟磁性層36は、記録媒体との対向面からハイト方向に延びて形成され、軟磁性層36の基端部36aは、第2の下部コア層30上に磁気的に接続されて形成されている。

【0158】また図5に示すようにこの実施例では、前記軟磁性層36の下面には、高比抵抗層40が形成されている。前記高比抵抗層40の比抵抗ρは、軟磁性層36の比抵抗ρよりも高くなっている。また前記高比抵抗層40は、軟磁性層36が下部コア層を形成する軟磁性層30上にギャップ層33を介して対向する位置(磁路形成領域)には形成されておらず、前記高比抵抗層40は、記録媒体との対向面に露出形成されない。このため前記高比抵抗層40の形成が、ギャップ近傍での記録磁界の集中の妨げとならず、高記録密度化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0159】前述したように、各軟磁性層30, 36には、ギャップ近傍において、磁極部32, 34が磁気的に接続して形成されているが、前記磁極部32, 34は、各軟磁性層30, 36の飽和磁束密度Bsよりも高い飽和磁束密度Bsを有して形成された、いわば高Bs層となっている。

【0160】このように高Bs層をギャップ近傍に設けることで、前記高Bs層の部分で、ギャップ近傍で記録磁界を集中させることができ、より適切に高記録密度化を図ることが可能である。

【0161】また図5に示す実施例では、絶縁層31に

形成された溝部31a内に前記磁極部32, 34が形成され、前記溝部31aのトラック幅方向(図示X方向)における幅寸法は非常に狭く形成されるために、今後の狭トラック化において、高記録密度化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造が可能である。

【0162】なお前記上部磁極部34及び下部磁極部32(高Bs層)は、上記した(1)～(12)のいずれかの軟磁性材料により形成されることが好ましい。

【0163】なお図4及び図5に示す実施例では、下部10磁極部32及び上部磁極部34が、絶縁層31に形成された溝部31a内にのみ形成されているが、さらに、前記下部磁極部32及び上部磁極部34が、前記溝部31aから延出して、前記下部磁極部32が、コイル層38が形成されている絶縁層31の下側にまで延びて形成されていてもよいし、また上部磁極部34が、絶縁層39上にまで延びて形成されていてもよい。

【0164】また下部コア層30は、溝部31a内には形成されていないが、この溝部31a内に、前記下部コア層30が突出して形成されていてもかまわない。

【0165】以上詳述した本発明における薄膜磁気ヘッドでは、上部コア層と下部コア層のうち、少なくとも一方のコア層は、軟磁性層と前記軟磁性層の上面及び/または下面に前記軟磁性層よりも高い比抵抗ρを有する高比抵抗層が形成されている。

【0166】記録周波数が上昇することにより発生する渦電流を低減させることができ、今後の高記録周波数化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することが可能になる。

【0167】また本発明では、前記軟磁性層は高比抵抗30層よりも高い飽和磁束密度Bsを有していることが好ましく、これにより、各コア層のギャップ近傍付近で強い記録磁界を発生させて、記録分解能を向上させることができ、今後の高記録密度化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0168】また図1では、上部コア層42の軟磁性層22の上、図2では上部コア層42の軟磁性層22の下、図3では上部コア層42の軟磁性層22の上と下部コア層15の軟磁性層43の下、図5では上部コア層の軟磁性層36の下にそれぞれ高比抵抗層40が設けられているが、前記高比抵抗層40は、例えば上部コア層の軟磁性層の上下及び下部コア層の軟磁性層の上下の四箇所に設けられても良く、任意に前記高比抵抗層40の形成位置を決定することができる。

【0169】

【実施例】本発明では下記の構成で形成された実施例及び比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造し、各薄膜磁気ヘッドの、OW(オーバーライト)特性、PW50特性、及びNLT5特性について測定した。

【0170】実施例としての薄膜磁気ヘッドの構造は、下部コア層を形成する軟磁性層の上面及び下部コア層を

形成する軟磁性層の下面に高比抵抗層が形成されている。前記軟磁性層、及び高比抵抗層は、全てNi-Fe合金で形成されているが、各軟磁性層のFe量は、高比抵抗層のFe量に比べて大きくなっている、これにより、軟磁性層の方が、高比抵抗層に比べ、飽和磁束密度Bsが高くなっている。

【0171】なおギャップ層に対向する側に形成された各軟磁性層の飽和磁束密度Bsは、1.6T程度であり、高比抵抗層の飽和磁束密度Bsは1.0T程度であった。

【0172】また、比較例としての薄膜磁気ヘッドの構造は、上部コア層が2層の軟磁性層が積層されて構成され、下部コア層は単層で形成されている。この場合においても、全ての軟磁性層は、Ni-Fe合金で形成されているが、上部コア層のギャップ層に対向する側に形成されたNi-Fe合金のFe量は、もう一方のNi-Fe合金のFe量に比べて大きくなっている、これにより、ギャップ層に対向する側に形成されたNi-Fe合金の方が、他方のNi-Fe合金に比べ、飽和磁束密度Bsが高くなっている。

【0173】なおギャップ層に対向する側に形成されたNi-Fe合金の飽和磁束密度Bsは、1.6T程度であり、他方のNi-Fe合金の飽和磁束密度Bsは1.0T程度であった。また単層で形成された下部コア層の飽和磁束密度Bsは、1.4Tから1.6T程度であった。

【0174】図6は、記録電流とOW(オーバーライト)特性との関係についてのグラフである。

【0175】なおOW特性の測定では、低周波で記録媒体に書き込みを行い、次に高周波で重ね書きを行なう。その状態で、最初に低周波で書いた記録信号の残存出力値が、重ね書きを行なう前の最初に低周波で書いた記録信号の出力値に比べて、どれくらい下がったかをdBで測定した。OW特性は、絶対値で大きいほど好ましい。

【0176】図6に示すように、実施例の場合も比較例の場合も共に、記録電流が上がれば、OW特性の絶対値は大きくなり、OW特性が向上することがわかる。

【0177】しかし図6に示すように、実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドにおけるOW特性の絶対値の方が、比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドにおけるOW特性の絶対値に比べて、5、6dB程度大きくなっている、実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドの方が、比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドに比べてOW特性を向上させることができるとわかる。

【0178】図7は、記録電流とPW50特性との関係を示すグラフである。PW50特性とは、孤立再生波形の半値幅を測定したものであり、この半値幅が小さければ小さいほど、記録分解能が向上していることを意味する。

【0179】図7に示すように、実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドの方が、比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドの場合に比べ、半値幅を小さくでき、PW50特性を向上させることができるとわかる。

幅を小さくでき、PW50特性を向上させることができるとわかる。

【0180】図8は、記録電流とNLTS特性との関係を示すグラフである。NLTS特性は、IBM(株)が開発した5次高調波法を用いて測定した。前記NLTS特性は、絶対値で大きいほど好ましい。

【0181】図8に示すように、実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドの方が、比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドに比べてNLTS特性を向上させることができるとわかる。

10 【0182】以上のように、図6ないし図8を参照してわかるように、実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッド、すなわち、上部コア層を形成する軟磁性層の上面及び下部コア層を形成する軟磁性層の下面に高比抵抗層を形成した薄膜磁気ヘッドの方が、比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッド、すなわち、下部コア層を単層で形成し、上部コア層側を2層にし、磁気ギャップと対向する側の層の飽和磁束密度を、前記磁気ギャップから離れる側の層の飽和磁束密度よりも高くなった薄膜磁気ヘッドに比べ、OW特性、PW50特性及びNLTS特性を向上させることができるとわかる。

20 【0183】

【発明の効果】以上詳述した本発明によれば、上部コア層及び下部コア層の少なくとも一方のコア層には、軟磁性層と、前記軟磁性層の上面及び/または下面に、前記軟磁性層よりも高い比抵抗ρを有する高比抵抗層を形成している。

【0184】これにより、記録周波数が上昇することにより発生する渦電流による損失を低減させることができ、今後の高記録周波数化に対応可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

30 【0185】また、前記軟磁性層の飽和磁束密度Bsを、高比抵抗層の飽和磁束密度Bsよりも高くすることで、記録媒体との対向面から発生する記録磁界をギャップ近傍に集中させ、記録分解能を向上させることができくなる。このため本発明によれば、今後の高記録密度化に対応することが可能な薄膜磁気ヘッドを製造することができる。

【0186】また本発明では、前記高比抵抗層を、Feイオン、Niイオンを有するメッキ浴中に、アミノ系有機材料を添加して、組成元素に少なくともFe、Ni及びNを含有した軟磁性材料により形成することによって、前記高比抵抗層の比抵抗ρを向上させることができくなる。

【0187】さらに本発明では、前記上部コア層あるいは下部コア層の軟磁性層を、Ni-Fe合金で形成する場合に、パルス電流を用いた電気メッキ法を使用することにより、前記軟磁性層の飽和磁束密度Bsを向上させることができ可能である。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施形態の構造を示す薄膜磁気ヘッドの拡大断面図、

【図 2】本発明の他の実施形態の構造を示す薄膜磁気ヘッドの拡大断面図、

【図 3】本発明の他の実施形態の構造を示す薄膜磁気ヘッドの拡大断面図、

【図 4】本発明の他の実施形態の構造を示す薄膜磁気ヘッドの部分正面図、

【図 5】図 4 に示す 5-5 線から切断した薄膜磁気ヘッドを矢印方向から見た部分断面図、

【図 6】実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドと比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドを使用し、記録電流とOW特性との関係を示すグラフ、

【図 7】実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドと比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドを使用し、記録電流と PW 50 特性との関係を示すグラフ、

【図 8】実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドと比較例の薄膜磁気ヘッドを使用し、記録電流と NLT S 特性との関係を示すグラフ、

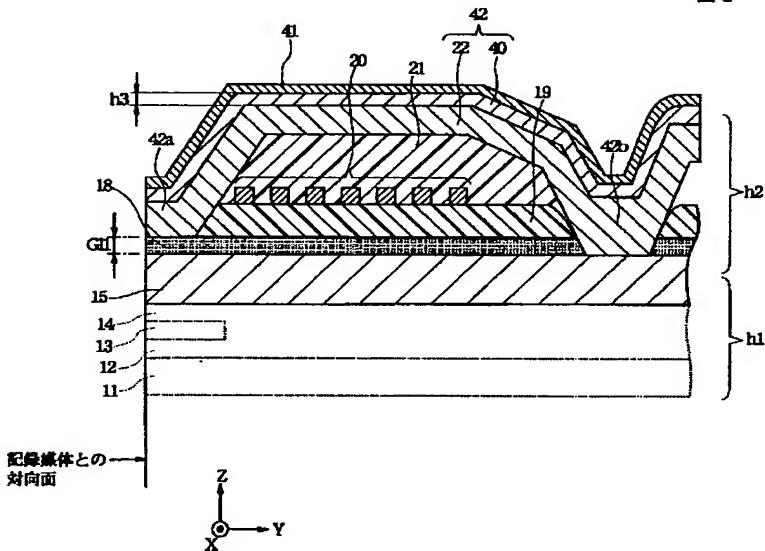
【図 9】従来の薄膜磁気ヘッドの構造を示す部分断面図、

【符号の説明】

- 1 1 下部シールド層
- 1 2 下部ギャップ層
- 1 3 磁気抵抗効果素子
- 1 4 上部ギャップ層
- 1 5 下部コア層
- 1 8、 3 3 ギャップ層
- 1 9、 2 1、 3 1 絶縁層
- 2 0、 3 8 コイル層
- 2 2、 3 0、 3 6 軟磁性層
- 3 2 下部磁極部 (高 B s 層)
- 3 4 上部磁極部 (高 B s 層)
- 4 0 高比抵抗層
- 4 1 保護膜
- 4 2 上部コア層

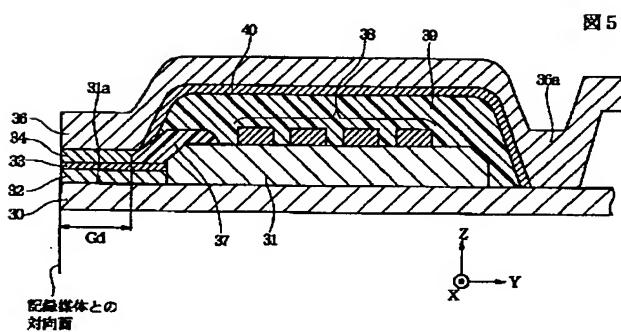
【図 1】

図 1



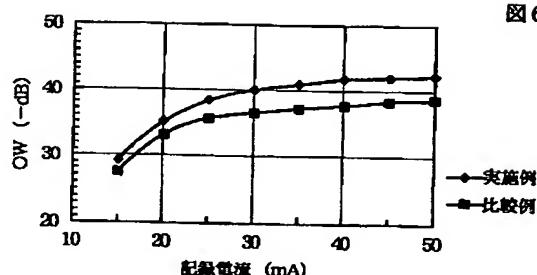
【図 5】

図 5



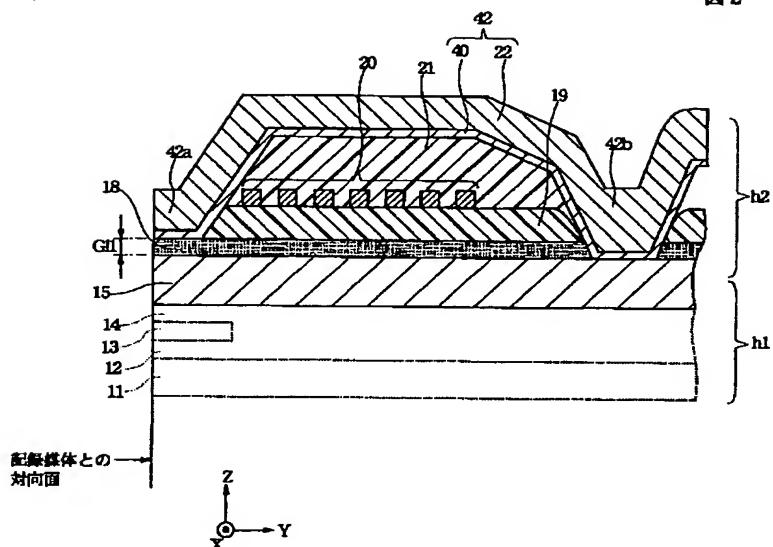
【図 6】

図 6



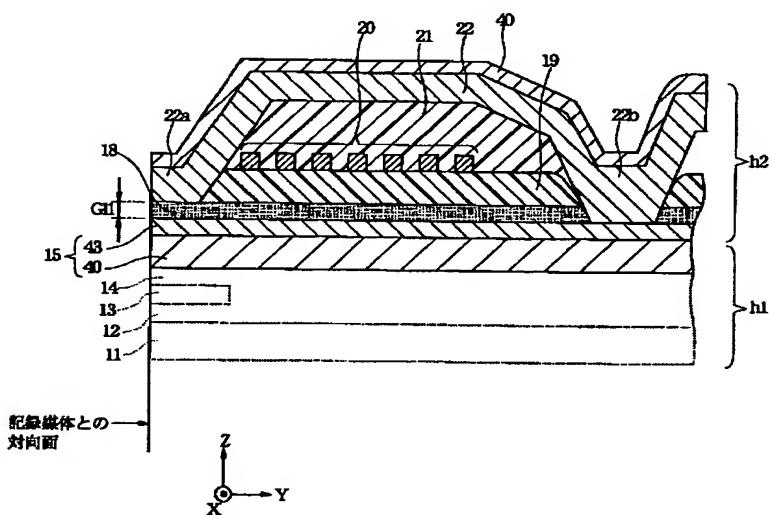
【図 2】

図 2



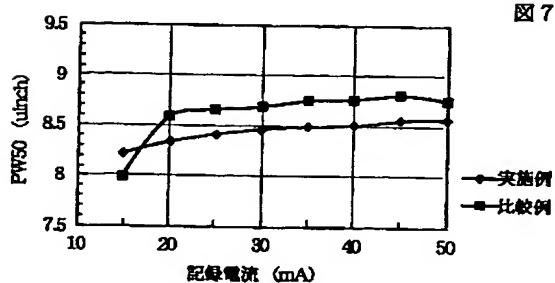
【図 3】

図 3



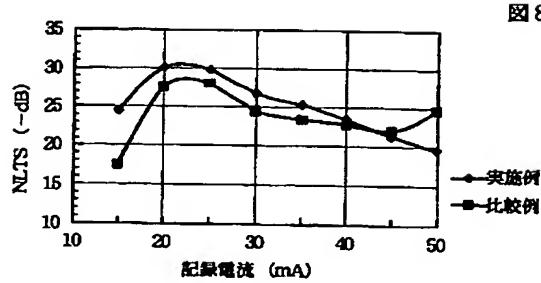
【図 7】

図 7



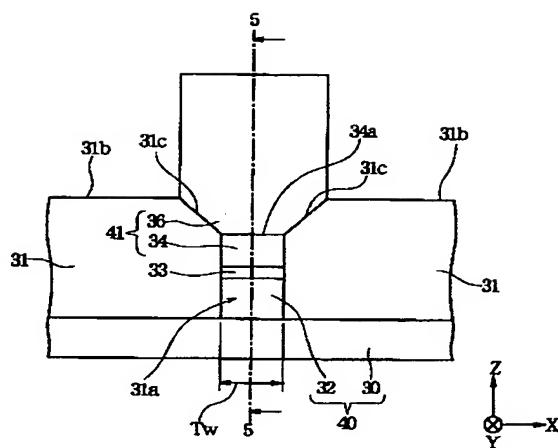
【図 8】

図 8



【図 4】

図 4



【図 9】

図 9

